

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**No rest for
AF Marathon
champion**

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Capt. Jill Metzger



**U.S. may up Iraq
force by 20,000,
paper reports**

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**6 films make
Jude Law focus
of Hollywood**

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Volume 63, No. 193

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2004

50¢

Bush to request up to \$75B in war funds

Amount would exceed anticipated 2005 cost for Iraq, Afghanistan

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Show
a little
love for ...

The
**Scary
Guy**

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Airman 1st Class Shawn Kirkbride joins The Scary Guy — his legal name since 1998 — in role-playing during the tattooed motivational speaker's presentation Monday at the First Term Airman's Center at RAF Mildenhall, England. The Scary Guy has a message of love and compassion, two things he was without for most of his life, he says.

RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

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States

N.Y. airline crash: The co-pilot of American Airlines Flight 587 caused the November 2001 crash that claimed the lives of 265 people, the staff of the nation's airline safety agency reported Tuesday in Washington.

Investigator Robert Benzon of the National Transportation Safety Board staff said the co-pilot's response to turbulence, seconds after the Airbus A300-600 plane took off from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, was "unnecessary and aggressive."

Both Airbus Industrie, which manufactured the jetliner, and American Airlines, which trained co-pilot First Officer Sten Molin, agree that if he had taken his foot off the rudder pedal, the tail wouldn't have broken off, the plane wouldn't have plunged into a New York City neighborhood.

Laci Peterson murder case: Scott Peterson's defense lawyers in Redwood City, Calif., rested their case Tuesday without calling him to the stand.

Judge Alfred A. Delacchi told jurors the prosecution would call eight rebuttal witnesses Wednesday.

After any defense rebuttal to that, the court will not be in session again until Monday, when closing arguments are set to begin.

The jury should get the case by Nov. 3, Delacchi said. Peterson is charged with two counts of murder in the death of his pregnant wife, Laci, who disappeared in December 2002, and the fetus she carried.

Robert Blake trial: Robert Blake and his lawyer were not present, but the former "Baretta" star was on everyone's mind as prospective jurors in Los Angeles were screened for a panel that will decide whether the actor murdered his wife.

"Oh, geez!" exclaimed one woman when it was announced that the group was called for the high-profile Blake trial, which could last five months. Many of the panelists sighed and shook their heads.

Blake, 71, will stand trial for murder in the death of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley.

World

Darfur talks break off: A second day of peace talks on the crisis in Sudan's Darfur region broke off early Tuesday after rebels called for more time to prepare proposals for a long-term political resolution to the conflict.

Delegates said the African Union-brokered talks in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, would resume Wednesday.

The talks opened Monday with both sides accusing the other of violating a cease-fire repeatedly over the last several days.

The United Nations has called Darfur the world's worst humanitarian crisis and said it has claimed 70,000 lives since March, while 1.5 million have fled their homes since 2003.

Srebrenica mass graves: Forensics experts said Tuesday they had found a total of 94 bodies during the exhumation of a Bosnian mass grave containing victims of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre.



North Korean asylum-seekers: A Chinese man makes repairs Monday to a damaged fence around the South Korean Consulate in Beijing. As many as 19 people, all believed to be North Korean asylum-seekers, tried to dash into the building Monday, but only three succeeded, a diplomat and a news report said. China called on foreign embassies on Tuesday to stop giving shelter to North Korean asylum-seekers, complaining they are illegal migrants.

The experts, which completed the exhumation Tuesday afternoon, found 55 complete bodies and 39 partial remains in the grave, said Murat Huric, an official with the missing persons commission in the Muslim-Croat part of Bosnia. The grave is located in Snagovo, near Zvornik and the border with Serbia.

Based on documents found next to the bodies, the dead appeared to be Bosnian Muslims killed in the 1995 massacre in nearby Srebrenica, the worst slaughter of civilians in Europe since World War II.

Mark Thatcher in court: Lawyers for Sir Mark Thatcher argued Tuesday in court in Cape Town, South Africa, against an order forcing the son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to answer questions about an alleged coup attempt that failed in Equatorial Guinea.

The hearings Tuesday and Wednesday focus on the legality of the government subpoena of Thatcher, a 51-year-old businessman who has lived in South Africa since 1995. He was arrested in Cape Town on Aug. 25.

Equatorial Guinea wants to question a number of prominent Britons, including Thatcher, about allegations they financed a plot earlier this year to overthrow President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, who has ruled Africa's third-largest oil producer for the past 25 years.

Turkey and the EU: Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said Tuesday his country hopes the European Union will decide to formally open admission talks, adding that Ankara is prepared for difficult negotiations.

Gul, in Prague, Czech Republic, on a two-day visit, told reporters that Turkish officials hoped EU officials would decide

in December in favor of opening the talks.

Turkey has been striving for membership in the European Union since 1963, when the EU made the country an associate member. Over the decades, European leaders put off a decision on whether Ankara should be allowed to join.

War on terrorism

Sept. 11 terror trial: Suspected lead Sept. 11, 2001, hijacker Mohamed Atta said months before the attacks that he was a pilot and wanted to destroy American "symbols," a witness in the trial of a Moroccan man charged with helping the suicide pilots plotified Tuesday in Hamburg, Germany.

However, the presiding judge in the retrial of Moumr el Motassadeq questioned the credibility of the testimony by Roger Luetz, a Hamburg restaurant owner, noting that he had earlier given conflicting stories in questioning by police.

El Motassadeq is charged with more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization.

Swedish Gtmo detainee: A Swede held for more than two years at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the U.S. military will get financial help from the Swedish government if he pursues his planned lawsuit against the United States, an official said Tuesday.

Mehdi-Muhammed Ghezali, a Swede of Algerian origin, was released in July without charge from the U.S. naval base on Cuba's southeastern tip, where he was one of hundreds held on suspicion of links to al-Qaida or the ousted Taliban regime in Afghanistan. He plans to file a joint lawsuit together with other European prisoners who were released this summer, his lawyer Peter Althoff, said.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Correction

A story in Tuesday's editions listing Halloween events in American communities in Europe had incorrect information for Naples, Italy. Trick or treat will be in the support site housing area from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. Parents must escort children.



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Comics, advice and
horoscope every day
in Stars and Stripes

The Scary Guy spreading positive energy

Tattooed, pierced motivational speaker brings message of compassion to bases in England

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — The Scary Guy certainly is.

At least, at first glance. He has a face only a mother could love. And even then, the mother would have to be the Bride of Frankenstein.

Covered from head to toe with tattoos, he has more art on him than the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. His hair is blue and his teeth are gold. He has more face piercings than an entire punk band.

But after a few minutes of delivering his motivational message of love, compassion and tolerance, The Scary Guy doesn't seem so scary. He becomes, almost, The Cuddly Guy.

"The elimination of hate, violence and prejudice worldwide. Give me a break. One guy can't do this job," he said to a room full of airmen at the First Term Airmen's Center on RAF Mildenhall. "I'm here today for one reason. I need your help."

For the next 90 minutes, The Scary Guy — that has been his name since 1998 — told how he was once filled with anger and hate. He judged people in a moment, almost always in an adverse way. He was bursting at his image-laden seams with negative energy.

"For 43 years of my life — love? What a joke," he said. "I was a professional name-caller and hater. I could find a fault in you in 10 seconds."

But now, at age 50, The Scary Guy is a world-traveled motivational speaker, delivering his message to schools, corporations and military audiences.

"Churches are booking me. That's really weird, dude," he said.

The message he spreads like an itinerant preacher is a simple one, yet profound. He says a person's negative attitude is directed back at him or her. Conversely, someone who spreads positive energy gets positive vibes in return.

"For four years, I haven't said one negative word about another person on the planet," he said. "I haven't called anybody a name except their own."

He is prone to pulling out newspaper articles about young children who commit suicide when the bullying they take about their appearance — too fat, too skinny, too tall, too short — becomes too great.

His appearance heightens his message. He first got a tattoo when he was 30, not stopping until his body was nearly covered with the inked images.

The result, he said, has been that people judge him by his looks, not by his character or what is in his heart. In other words, they treat him the way he treated people for so long.

"That's called payback," said the former tattoo artist.

It is a good lesson in the judgment of human beings, he said, to follow him through the base commissary and watch the reaction that trails in his wake.

The heart of his message is a challenge. He asks his listeners to spend the next seven days and seven nights saying not one negative word about anyone.

Put a stop to the gossip and the name-calling.

"It will be the most difficult seven days in your life, I guarantee it," he said.

The Scary Guy is sort of like television's Dr. Phil, only with a lot more body art. His wife of nine years, Julie Kaufmann, who plays a 22-string lap harp during his presentation, said afterward that her husband has no formal education in psychology or social sciences.

"He has always been perceptive about people," she said.

Living in Arizona, the couple is on the road most of the year to spread the message. He said he receives 4,000 letters each month similar to the one he read to the airmen from a young boy being bullied and teased at school.

His Web site — www.scaryguy.com — gets 6 million hits a month from 75 countries.

The airmen who heard The Scary Guy on Monday afternoon, the first day of a three-day stay at U.S. bases in England, came away with something to ponder.

"I think it's a great message," said Airman 1st Class James Cheney. "I'll be stuck on this for a while."

Airman 1st Class Jeremy Lueth said The Scary Guy's message is similar to the Buddhism he once studied.

"He reminded me to try," he said. "I've tried before, but I'd gotten lazy."

The Scary Guy makes no guarantees that it will be easy. There will be slip-ups and backsliding. But, he said, the reward is worth the effort.

"I can't tell you when your paydays are going to come, but they will come," he said. "You will get something back."

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RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

The Scary Guy is a motivational speaker spreading a message of love and compassion. He says he had little of either for the first 43 years of his life.

Pet passports required for European travel

Launched this month, document costs about 12 euros

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — Wanderlust pets crossing European Union borders with their owners now need a passport.

The new passports, which were launched throughout the EU this month, are issued only at off-post veterinary clinics.

The little blue booklet, which will be valid in all 25 EU member countries, costs about 12 euros, depending on the facility and if shots are up to date, according to Elizabeth Theis, a veterinarian assistant in Darmstadt. It must be renewed every other year and costs 5 euros to renew it.

Though the pet passport may look like a human passport on the outside, the inside is actually full of medical information necessary for travel.

Owners even have the option of adding their pet's photo.

This said pets must either have a microchip implanted or a tattoo for identification, as well as have current rabies shots, before a passport is issued.

She said if the pet has these requirements, then owners need to pay only 3 euros for the passport and about 9 euros for a doctor consultation.

The mandatory microchip may halt American travelers, though, since the microchip used in the EU is different from those used in the States, according to Lt. Col. Thomas Hondel, deputy commander of the 100th Medical Detachment (Veterinarian Services) in Heidelberg.

Hondel explained that this difference in chips makes it impossible for the other country's chip readers to view the information. Owners either have to get a European chip for the pet while in the EU or get it tattooed to get the new pet passport.

Though military facilities cannot give American pets a passport to travel, they can offer guidance, Hondel said.

He recommends only families who take their pets on vacation with them get the new passport.

Those who prefer to have someone else watch their pet while taking a holiday need not worry about the new passports.

Travelers should talk to their local veterinarian prior to making a trip outside of the EU with their pets, since more paperwork is needed than just the passport.

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Memorial service set for Darmstadt GI found dead

Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany — A memorial service has been set for Spc. Jacques F. Kessler, who was found dead in his Cambrai-Frissy Barracks room Monday morning.

Details of his death have not been released, according to an e-mail statement issued by the 233rd Base Support Battalion public affairs office. The incident is under investigation.

Kessler, 22, of Tipp City, Ohio, was assigned to the 440th Signal Battalion, 22nd Signal Brigade, since April of 2002. He was president of the community's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers.

Kessler deployed with Company C, 440th Signal Battalion in March 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and returned to Germany in February 2004.

He is survived by his parents, John and Carol Kessler, and his brothers, Paul and Zachary.

The memorial is set for 2 p.m. Thursday at the base chapel.



JESSICA INIGO/Stars and Stripes

In the background, Elizabeth Theis, who works at a veterinary clinic in Darmstadt, Germany, shows off the new pet passport. She said it should cost about 12 euros to get the passport and that it would be good throughout the European Union.

Unit renovates barracks to honor injured comrade

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

HANAU, Germany — From this day on, lower enlisted soldiers new to Company A, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, will come to know all about Sgt. James Lathan.

Lathan deserves nothing less. An aircraft hydraulics engineer, the 27-year-old Nebraska was eight days away from leaving Iraq when a mortar round sent him home early, though not the way he, his buddies and his family had imagined.

The mortar round that exploded just behind him on the night of the Fourth of July sent pieces of shrapnel whizzing through the air. As luck or fate — or whatever one wants to call it — would have it, a fragment struck Lathan at the base of the skull, damaging his spinal cord and leaving him paralyzed from the neck down.

"Things happen, you know," Lathan told a Boston Herald newspaper reporter. "It's not a perfect world. I'm lucky. I'll get to see my

kid grow up."

His Army buddies say that's vintage Lathan, a quiet, reflective man who could be incredibly practical one moment and ridiculously carefree the next.

Sgt. Dane Harrison still laughs at the thought of Lathan donning headphones to listen to R&B tunes, dancing and bopping around the helicopter hangar at Baghdad International Airport without a shred of apprehension.

Perhaps that's why Harrison and so many others — soldiers and spouses alike — think nothing of renovating part of a barracks building in tribute to him. When it's completed early next month, a shadow box in the common room for transient soldiers will feature

photos and other memorabilia, a sort of living tribute.

"We won't forget him that way," said Maj. Steven Rodriguez, the company commander.

Lathan won't be on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the renovated building next month. With the support of his wife, Amy, and 4-year-old son, James, he's facing months of rehab at a Boston-area Veterans Administration hospital.

Like other 1st Armored Division units, many members of the 127th are moving on to new assignments after their 15-month tour to Iraq. Rodriguez and Sgt. 1st Class Billy Maloney said the turnover is part of Army life, but believe the effort in Building 1334 will give future GIs a greater appreciation of the sacrifices soldiers such as Lathan make.

"It does open your eyes," Staff Sgt. Todd Horn, the project leader, said, of the human costs of war. The idea for the renovation project originated with the company's Family Readiness Group,



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

Sgt. James Lathan, squatting, poses for a group photo with other soldiers from Company A, 127th Aviation Support Battalion inside a hangar at the Baghdad International Airport. With him are, from left, Sps. Michael Baruss, Sps. Dane Harrison, Sps. Jimmy Leon, Staff Sgt. Anthony Kinney and Staff Sgt. Abel Celso.

headed by the major's wife, Mary Rodriguez. Last Saturday, when the effort got under way, more than two dozen people showed up to help, though, really, only half or fewer were needed.

As Harrison sorted through memories of the deployment and his time with Lathan, he spoke of how his friend and mentor spoke of his desire to be rich. The wealth he sought was not for him-

self, Harrison said, but for others. Lathan wanted to become a philanthropist to right some wrongs and help those less fortunate.

Lathan may never make his millions, but he is enriching the lives of those who know him by demonstrating an indomitable spirit.

"He loved helping people," Harrison said.

And he still does.

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MyRoad program helps students find direction

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

LaDashia McIntosh doesn't know how to write a résumé. Not many 10th-graders do.

"I would like to go to college," said LaDashia, a sophomore at Ramstein American High School in Germany. "I've thought about" many majors that I wanted to do in college, but still haven't picked a specific one."

LaDashia is getting help by using MyRoad, an Internet program purchased in February by the Department of Defense Dependents Schools to help pupils look ahead.

MyRoad is for high school students looking ahead to going to college, joining the military or entering the work force. But the program is also being used by younger pupils who are deciding what classes to take in high school.

"We don't expect kids that young to know

what they'll do for the rest of their lives," said Cheryl Owen, a counselor at Aviano High School in Italy.

"But we want to start exposing them to different career fields, so when they're in 11th and 12th grade they'll know if they want to go to college or into the military, or into a two-year school or an apprenticeship."

MyRoad has six main parts online:

■ Insights, an online magazine.

■ "ID Me," a pair of self-assessment tests.

■ "Explore Majors," descriptions written by college students of 67 different majors.

■ "Find a college," information on more than 3,500 two- and four-year schools, including locations, costs, entry requirements and majors.

■ "Research Careers," details on 63 career areas and 455 occupations.

■ "My Plan," an online portfolio, includ-

ing information on making a resume and writing college applications.

Every DODD's middle and high school has an account with MyRoad, and all their pupils, teachers and counselors have access.

Ashley Mead, a senior at Aviano, was in 11th grade when MyRoad was introduced there. She'd already decided that she was going to take marketing in college, and that she was going to attend the University of Florida in Gainesville.

But she used MyRoad to scout colleges anyway, in case she changed her mind about Florida.

"I looked at different tuitions, grade-point averages and [Scholastic Aptitude Test] scores the different colleges were looking for," Mead said.

"I also used it to build my résumé when I was asking for letters of recommendation."

While Ashley has already been accepted at Florida, searching through MyRoad put her in a New York state of mind.

"I became very fascinated with that," she said. "Now I know I eventually want to go to New York, but not until after college."

"MyRoad just opens your mind to the realm of possibilities."

At Ramstein, which has 1,000 students in grades nine through 12, the main goal so far has been getting everyone enrolled in MyRoad, according to counselor Janet Garn.

Most of the students, especially the younger ones, are not looking toward their future, she said.

"I think [MyRoad] helps to bring the reality that in a few years they're going to be in the work force," Garn said. "It's important to make the connection between what they are doing now and what they will be doing in the real world."

MyRoad, Owen said, helps students figure out what they'll do later in life, even if "later in life" is just high school.

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JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Cmdr. Jim Kruse of the 6th Fleet staff buys some cookies Tuesday from Larissa Leon-Key at the Gaeta, Italy, Navy Exchange. Leon-Key was selling baked goods to raise money to buy school supplies for Iraqi children.

Bake sale raises funds for school kids

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

Residents of the small Navy base in Gaeta, Italy, opened their hearts and wallets for the schoolchildren of Iraq, raising about \$800 for the purchase of school supplies through a two-day bake sale.

Petty officers first class assigned to the USS La Salle, the 11th Fleet staff and their family members ran the sale, with the money going to Operation Iraqi Children.

Operation Iraqi Children was started by actor Gary Sinise and author Laura Hillenbrand, who

wrote "Seabiscuit: An American Legend."

The organization's effort to gather money for school supplies was recently featured on "Good Morning America."

Gaeta resident Larissa Leon-Key watched the TV report and thought it was a worthy cause.

She approached her husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Key, to see if he knew how to raise money for school supplies. He recommended using the joint ship-staff petty officers first class association.

"I wanted to do something," said Leon-Key. "There may be a

lot of bad stuff going on there, but as Americans, we have a spirit of giving."

"Everyone was all for it," said Key, the association president, about his fellow petty officers.

"It's hard to get anything going on because Gaeta's such a small community, but I think it went pretty well," he said.

Many Gaeta residents stopped by to donate or purchase baked goods, including Gaeta resident Michelle Davey.

"We'll probably be giving a donation in addition to the snacks I'm having," she said.

"It's definitely for a good cause."

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Freelance jailers appeal Afghan convictions

By AMIR SHAH

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three Americans convicted of torturing Afghans on a freelance counter-terror mission will appear in court later this week to appeal the decision, a senior official said Tuesday.

Jonathan Idema, Edward Caraballo and Brent Bennett were sentenced last month to 8-10 years in jail after a trial that embarrassed U.S. and NATO forces and sowed confusion about America's role in the war-shattered country.

Gen. Abdul Fatah, a senior Afghan prosecutor, said Idema had asked at a closed-door preliminary appeal hearing last week for more time for his lawyer to ar-

rest. The prisoner was released without charge. NATO peacekeepers also helped the trio on three raids, later saying they were duped.

The three are being held at Kabul's Pul-e Charki prison, a facility notorious in Afghanistan as the scene of summary executions and ghastly conditions.

But officials said they had gone out of their way to make the Americans' stay comfortable.

Gen. Abdulslam Bakshsi, the director of prisons, said the trio were lodged together "in a nice room."

"They have a separate bathroom, carpet, TV and good food," Bakshsi said. "The prisoners are from foreign countries, and we should provide them with the standard of living they are accustomed to."

in close cooperation with American and Afghan security forces.

The U.S. government has offered a \$50 million reward for the capture of bin Laden.

On Sept. 15, a lower court convicted all three of running an illegal jail, torture and illegal entry into Afghanistan after a trial marred by faulty translation and chaotic procedures.

Defense lawyers were given no opportunity to cross-examine prosecution witnesses, and the judge dismissed videotapes purporting to show Idema in telephone contact with U.S. defense officials.

The American military acknowledges accepting a prisoner from Idema, but insists it realized shortly afterward that he was an

rifle and to arrange a translator, and that the appeal was set to start Saturday.

"We told him that was OK," Fatah said, adding that authorities hoped to prevent a repeat of the accusations by Idema and his lawyers during the first trial that the process was a sham. "This guy is a bit of a troublemaker."

Idema, the group's leader, Bennett, his right-hand man, and television cameraman Caraballo were arrested on July 5 when Afghan security forces raided a house in downtown Kabul and discovered eight Afghans who said they had been tortured.

Idema, a 48-year-old former soldier from Fayetteville, North Carolina, insists they were tracking down terror suspects including al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden

Kitzingen soldier guilty of sodomy

A military judge Friday sentenced a Kitzingen-based soldier to two years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a single count of forcible sodomy against another soldier, according to a case summary issued by the 1st Infantry Division's Staff Judge Advocate.

Pvt. Robert Denzinger, 21, of Detachment A of the 38th Personnel Support Battalion, also was reduced to the lowest enlisted rank, stripped of all pay during his prison term, and handed a bad-conduct discharge by Judge (Lt. Col.) Robin Hall at a court-martial in Würzburg, Germany, the summary said.

Prosecutors said Denzinger was out partying and dancing with a group of male and female friends the night of July 31. After they got home, he invited himself over to the barracks room of one of his female friends to watch a movie.

Both fell asleep while the victim was asleep, he attacked her.

Free concert offered in Mannheim

Sharrice Williams and the Wiseguys, a blues-gospel group, will perform a free concert at 9 p.m. Sunday at the Top Hat Club in Mannheim, Germany.

The group has performed throughout the United

States and Europe, and will drive directly to the Mannheim Club after a Sunday morning performance in Switzerland. It agreed to the concert after being asked by a Mannheim marketing specialist, saying it would be an honor to play for the troops.

The group's sound has been described as rocking blues with a splash of gospel, and Williams' vocals are said to show the influence of such singers as Billie Holiday, Etta James, Tina Turner and Koky Taylor.

For more information, call DSN 385-2653 or 385-9370, or civilian 0621-730-2653 or 0621-730-9370.

Osprey families want memorial

QUANTICO, Va. — The widows and parents of eight Marines killed during two test flights of V-22 Osprey military aircraft in 2000 want to build a memorial to the men.

They hope to erect the monument at Quantico Marine Corps Base in 2006, the same year the Marine Corps hopes to make the tilt-rotor aircraft operational. The Osprey can lift and hover like a helicopter and fly like a plane.

The proposed memorial hasn't been approved, but is working its way through military channels, said Maj. Nat Fahy, a spokesman at Marine headquarters.

From staff and wire reports



iROBOT/AP

A driverless vehicle by iRobot takes a spin on a test course in Massachusetts earlier this year. John Deere Co. and iRobot announced plans to build a semi-autonomous battlefield vehicle.

John Deere, iRobot making a battlefield robot vehicle

By MARK JEWELL

The Associated Press

BOSTON — In a trailblazing pairing of robotics and tractor companies, iRobot and John Deere announced plans Monday to build a 9-foot semiautonomous battlefield vehicle.

Burlington, Mass.-based iRobot Corp. will adapt the artificial intelligence technology used in its Romba vacuums and portable PackBot military robots for a two-seat John Deere utility vehicle similar to ones the Pentagon already uses.

The Military Robot Gator, or R-Gator, will be the first of its kind to use off-the-shelf technology, making it easier and less expensive to produce than existing, custom-made vehicles, the companies said.

While the Pentagon is expected to be the first customer, the R-Gator's developers hope to eventually draw interest from elsewhere for use in everything from responding to chemical spills to patrolling borders, said Helen Greiner, iRobot's chairwoman and co-founder.

"The military is a great early adopter," Greiner said in a phone interview from Washington, where the companies an-

nounced their plans at a trade show for Army contractors.

Moline, Illinois-based Deere & Co. and iRobot plan to begin pilot production of the six-wheel R-Gator by the middle of next year at a production cost of about \$250,000 each, Greiner said. Full production is to begin in 2006.

The vehicle, five feet wide, has three basic modes: autonomous, remote control or manually driven by onboard human operators. Depending on battlefield circumstances, the vehicle could be controlled remotely, freeing up the soldiers inside it for other tasks, Greiner said.

The vehicle will be able to relay real-time video, audio and sensor readings from the field. Such capabilities could allow for unmanned perimeter patrols of a military installation, or for reconnaissance or carrying supplies such as ammunition, the companies said.

The vehicle is based on John Deere's M-Gator, which U.S. forces have used extensively in Afghanistan and Iraq. iRobot's PackBots have been used in thousands of missions in those two countries to disarm roadside bombs and search caves and buildings.



Photo courtesy of DOODS

Mannheim High School student Melanie Galindo votes in a mock presidential election sponsored by the Youth Leadership Initiative, a national civic education program based at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. Galindo is among students and teachers at the Germany middle and high schools participating in the vote, which is expecting more than 1 million students to cast ballots online during a two-week period ending Thursday. Election results will be available at www.youthleadership.net after 1 p.m. CET Friday.

Bush to ask for up to \$75B in war funds

BY ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush plans to send Congress a request early next year to finance wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and operations against terrorism that could reach \$75 billion, congressional aides said Tuesday.

A proposal of that magnitude would indicate that the wars' costs, particularly to battle the intensified Iraqi insurgency, are far exceeding what the Bush administration said it was expecting early this year.

White House budget office spokesman Chad Kolton said administration officials were only

starting to assess what is needed to pay for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

"There is literally no way to ascribe a final figure to what we will request," he said.

The Iraq war's price tag has become an issue in the presidential race, with the Democratic candidate, Sen. John Kerry, saying Bush has mismanaged the fight and diverted billions of dollars that could have been spent for schools and other priorities. Bush has defended the war as a needed part of the campaign against terror.

"Incompetence has a cost," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said in a written state-

ment. "This war has been a hideous mistake that has diminished our reputation in the world and has not made America safer."

Kolton said the Pentagon has enough money to support U.S. troops well into the spring, adding, "We'll make sure they have what they need to get the job done."

The fresh request would be on top of \$215 billion that lawmakers have provided since 2001 to wage war in Iraq and Afghanistan and begin rebuilding those countries, according to White House figures.

Taken together, a \$290 billion total would be nearly half the

\$623 billion cost of the Vietnam War and nearly half the \$613 billion U.S. costs in World War I, using dollars adjusted for inflation.

Several congressional aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believed the coming request would exceed \$50 billion and could reach \$70 billion or \$75 billion. Others said they think the White House will compress the figure before it is completed.

One aide said the Army, the main fighting force in Iraq, believes it will need \$6 billion annually for the next three years for deferred maintenance and to replace and repair destroyed and

damaged equipment. It also wants \$5 billion to \$10 billion for extra troops and equipment needed to fight the war and to reshape its force structure.

According to its latest figures, the Pentagon is spending an average of \$4.4 billion monthly in Iraq and \$769 million in Afghanistan. Assuming no reduction in U.S. forces or operations in either country, that would equate to more than \$62 billion in the 12 months.

The Bush administration began insisting this year that it would not request additional war money until early 2005. White House budget chief Joshua Bolten said \$50 billion might be the "upper limit" on next year's war spending.

Alawi blames coalition for poor security in ambush

BY TINI TRAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's interim prime minister blamed U.S.-led coalition forces Tuesday for "great negligence" in the ambush that killed about 50 American-trained soldiers, and a U.S. airstrike in Fallujah killed an aide to Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the military said.

An Iraqi insurgent group, meanwhile, said on a Web site it had taken 11 Iraqi National Guard soldiers hostage.

They were seized on a highway between Baghdad and Hillah, according to the Internet posting by the militant group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army. The posting included the names of all 11.

The authenticity of the posting could not immediately be verified. The movement claimed responsibility for a number of attacks and hostage takings, including the kidnap and murder of 12 Nepalese, who were seized in August.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Alawi blamed the coalition for poor security in Saturday's ambush about 95 miles east of Baghdad.

"It was a heinous crime where a group of National Guards were targeted," Alawi said. "There was great negligence on the part of some coalition forces. It seems there was sort of dereliction on doing Iraq and Iraqi people harm."



U.S. Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment run to a building after detonating explosives to open a gate during a mission in Ramadi, Iraq, on Tuesday.

The attack on the soldiers, who were returning home on leave, occurred on a remote eastern highway when their buses were stopped by insurgents at a fake checkpoint, police and defense officials said.

Some of the bodies were found in rows — shot execution-style in the head, the Defense Ministry said. Other bodies were found on a burned bus nearby.

Alawi told the Iraqi National Council: "You should expect an escalation in terrorist acts."

The U.S. military said the early-morning raid in Fallujah struck a safe house used by al-Zarqawi's group. U.S. forces have

stepped up aerial and artillery assaults on Fallujah in recent weeks in an attempt to root out insurgents.

Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, fell under rebel control after the Bush administration ordered Marines to lift their three-week siege of the city in April.

The United States has offered a \$25 million bounty for the capture or killing of al-Zarqawi, whose group has claimed responsibility in numerous suicide bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages, including three Americans.

"Recent strikes and raids targeting the Abu Musab al-Zarqawi network have severely degraded its ability to conduct attacks," the U.S. statement said. It did not identify the slain al-Zarqawi aide.

In London, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said the interim government is working to achieve a political solution to the military standoff around Fallujah.

"We are trying to exhaust all political channels and avenues before any final decision is made," Zebari told British Broadcasting Corp. radio. "Fallujah is one hot spot that we need really to resolve before getting to elections" scheduled for January.

A masked gunman, meanwhile, warned in a videotape that insurgents will attack all Iraqi and multinational military and civilian targets with "weapons and military tactics they have not experienced" if U.S. troops try to storm the city.

In the videotape, the gunman, dressed in an old-style Iraqi army uniform, read the statement on behalf of the "facions of the Islamic Resistance Movement in Iraq."

U.S. may up Iraq force, paper says

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Pentagon planners are considering options to boost troop levels during the planned elections in Iraq in January that include delaying the departure of some units, while speeding up the deployment of others, according to an article Tuesday in USA TODAY.

The article said the Pentagon might increase could be around 20,000 troops.

Pentagon officials would not confirm details of the considerations, but acknowledged that "contingency planning" was under way for the election period.

"There is ongoing planning related to troop levels and security requirements during the election period," a Pentagon official told Stars and Stripes. "It is a germane issue to the combat commander."

The combat commander is Gen. John Abizaid, head of the Florida-based U.S. Central Command, which has operational responsibility for Iraq.

However, "it would be inappropriate to speculate what might come out of this planning process, because there's a variety of conclusions that can be reached," said the official, who asked not to be named.

The "easiest option" would be to keep the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq beyond its expected January redeployment date, according to a Senate committee in the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, the USA TODAY story said.

Other choices include using U.S. troops now posted to Kuwait or bringing units from the Army's 82nd Airborne from Afghanistan, where they have been helping provide security for the recent elections there, the story said.

Abizaid told a Senate committee in September that he would like to have as many as 160,000 troops on hand in Iraq during the election period, which is to select the group of Iraqis who will write an official constitution for the country.

Those elections are supposed to be held before Jan. 31.

Abizaid told Congress he would prefer the additional troops come from coalition partners. But the Bush administration has had problems convincing other countries to contribute additional troops.

The United States has about 138,000 servicemen currently in Iraq.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.com

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,106 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 845 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department's tally. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Monday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, two; Thailand, two; the

Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 968 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 736 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest death reported by the military:

■ A roadside bomb killed one soldier in western Baghdad.

The latest identification reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.



BEST BUYS

ON SALE October 28-November 10



\$1.59

**Tostitos Party Bowls
and Tostitos 10 oz.**

The information on this page is authorized for commissary shoppers only. These are extra low prices on selected items available only in your commissary for a limited time. Make sure to look at the top of the page for sale dates. Sometimes, because of product distribution or locations of stores, a few of the prices on this page may not be available at the advertised price. The commissary is not responsible for errors on this page or in any commercially funded advertising. The commissary is not required to offer the prices advertised here if the price shown is in error. This advertising is not sponsored or paid for by the Defense Commissary Agency or the Department of Defense.

Organizations support military families with coupons

By nancy.onell@deca.mil

McClellan Calif. — Coupon clippers throughout the United States are sending record numbers of coupons to overseas commissaries in support of military families. And since coupons can be used overseas six months past their printed expiration date, coupled with low commissary prices, coupons can be a significant way to reduce the family food bill while serving in a foreign country.

"Almost everyday we receive packages of coupons from individuals and organizations that take the time to cut and mail coupons to our commissary," said Matthew Whittaker, store administrator at the Sagamiyara Commissary in Japan. "Most of the packages have a letter from the senders expressing their support to veterans and active-duty armed forces members."

"We receive thousands of coupons each month," said Mike Mertz, Sagamiyara Commissary store director. It is overwhelming to think of the number of people taking the time to cut and clip for military families."

Whittaker says that the Sagamiyara Commissary cashiers and ID checkers sort the coupons

and baggers give them to customers as they go through the checkout line.

Other commissaries, like the ones at Yokota and Misawa air bases, have a coupon exchange area at the entrance of the store where customers can take and leave coupons. And some stores provide the ultimate convenience when time allows, by attaching coupons to the product on the shelf.

Whittaker, Mertz, and commissary managers at other stores respond with a personal thank you letter to each person and group that sends in coupons. At the Sagamiyara commissary, they also post the names of the groups and individuals that send in coupons to the "Community News" section of their Web page.

"We think their efforts are significant," said Mertz, "and we want them to know they are appreciated." To view the Sagamiyara Commissary Community News page go to www.commissaries.com and click on locations.

Commissary customers can also use Internet coupons at all commissaries as long as they have a bar code for scanning and the coupons do not offer free product.

Tarragon Tomato Spinach Salad

DRESSING

- 2 tablespoons tarragon vinegar
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 teaspoon dill weed
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon dry mustard
- Dash pepper

SALAD

- 1 1/2 cups cooked rice
- 10 oz. Pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed, squeezed to drain
- 1 cup chopped tomato
- 1/2 cup sliced green onions
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 2 tablespoons sunflower nuts

In small bowl combine dressing ingredients; mix well and set aside. In medium bowl, combine cooked rice, spinach, tomato, green onions, and celery; mix well. Pour dressing over rice mixture; toss well. Refrigerate at least 1 hour to blend flavors. Serve. Makes about six side dish servings or three main dish servings.



Additional low-carb products added to many commissaries

An estimated 30-50 million people in the United States are currently living the low-carb lifestyle, vigilantly counting carbohydrate grams listed on the packages of everything they eat. DeCA has responded to this phenomenon by increasing the selection of low-carb products in many stores. Available now in larger commissaries are special low-carb sections that feature reduced-carbohydrate sauces, pastas, baking mixes, breads, salad dressings, breakfast foods and energy bars.

"I'm not an engineer, but I play one on TV"

GI's at FOB Hawk in Iraq switch gears to plan projects, hear claims

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAWK, Iraq — Wednesday was always the same: The Sudanese man still showed up, he still lacked his left foot, he still wanted his \$17,000.

The lieutenant wanted to give assurance that the money would be here next week. But 1st Lt. Murugan Palani could not do that. He could only say he was trying and would keep trying until he had an answer. Palani believed the Sudanese man's story about the money, its seizure at the border, the prison and the mortar blast that took the foot.

The Sudanese man, Ibrahim, would never take Palani's own money, which he offered in case Ibrahim were hungry. Ibrahim had been at this for a year, Palani had known many shysters and Ibrahim seemed the real thing.

"Tell him I'm very sorry," Palani told the interpreter, "Does he have a telephone number where we can call him?"

This is what the soldiers provide at an outpost in Abu Ghraib — a place for people to approach them and make claims against them, to plan public projects with them, to ask them for advice. This was where the Americans left the checkpoints of Camp Liberty and sat down with the people of the town. This where they met men such as Ibrahim.

The 51-year-old's money was seized by the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at the border, he said. The soldiers of that regiment believed he was a terrorist and put him in prison. Insurgents later would fire on the prison and Ibrahim lost his foot to a mortar blast. Eventually, soldiers believed Ibrahim's story that he had been working abroad for many years and was fleeing the war with his savings.

Palani belonged to a whole different outfit, the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment. He had no record of the money. So he waited until some fund, somewhere, could cough up Ibrahim's \$17,000.

Palani, 27, originally was a tank platoon leader and was somewhat new to this Army equivalent of the insurance claims business. He was not alone in such a fix. Down the hall, 2nd Lt. Daniel Gomez, all of 22, had gone from psychology major to instant engineer.

"I'm not an engineer," Gomez said, "but I play one on TV."

His unit had spent something like \$3 million on construction projects so far. Last month, a truck bulldozed one of them, a municipal building, to rubble, killing several people, including a U.S. soldier. Now, the sanitation official who met with him discussed building a new one. But the official bled at the prospect of being photographed speaking with Gomez, a

soldier.

The sanitation official also did not want responsibility over the garbage trucks Gomez had conjured, though he had asked for them. He said he could not guard them. A guard would run when the thieves with Kalashnikovs came. This frustrated Gomez. He and his interpreter argued over it, why wouldn't an Iraqi guard stay at his post. The interpreter said not every Iraqi is the same.

"It's a pain in the ass," Gomez said. "There's no such thing as a guard here in Iraq. We're the guards."

Contractors have had to give money to mosques for protection. Tough guys also will say, "Give me a job or I'll kill you," and the contractor obliges with employment.

Insurgents, meanwhile, have threatened the entire town, the sanitation official said. They left letters telling everyone to stop construction over the holy month of Ramadan, or their families would pay.

"It says, 'We'll kill you-Love, the Mujahidin?'" Gomez asked the translator.

"Yes."

"It says 'Love?'" Gomez uses humor to get through these things. And there were many things. He has seen — and fixed — schools where the children defecated on the bathroom floor because there was no running water.

The basics of engineering provide a less visual problem. The Army had to translate the plans of Arab engineers first into normal Arabic from scientific Arabic, and then into English, then maybe into English engineer speak.

"For some reason, 'dual-flanged conductor pipes' doesn't translate very well," Gomez said. "It doesn't roll off the tongue."

He also was annoyed at the way the U.S. government dealt with money. It took six layers of bureaucracy before the money left Uncle Sam's coffers and reached his projects, Gomez said, and most of them were in the form of big contractors. He feared the amount of money they sucked off before he ever saw a cent. Gomez uses local, yet reliable, contractors before the money reaches Wednesday.

Before the Wednesday rush, Gomez had pointed to a figure on a spreadsheet to explain the difference between in-hand and earmarked money.

In between Gomez's great ideas and Palani's meditations was the payout window, where the Iraqis showed up in eager droves. The soldiers would bring \$50,000 for the day's business. The Americans would pay \$1,000 for someone



PHOTOS BY WARD SANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Above: First Lt. Murugan Palani talks via interpreter to a Sudanese man trying to recover money he said the military wrongfully seized. He claims he was mistaken for a terrorist and put in prison, where he lost his left foot during an insurgent mortar attack. **Forward Operating Base Hawk in Abu Ghraib in Iraq is an outpost for people to make claims against the government, plan public projects or to ask for advice. Below:** An Iraqi approaches a military claims window manned by Spc. Jeffrey Jackson, right.

wrongly injured in a military strike, \$2,500 for a death, and \$500 to \$700 for minor car damage. A totaled vehicle would be replaced at value.

Spc. Jeffrey Jackson counted the money and slapped it down before the locals in crisp, green stacks. He would yell whenever there was a scuffle.

An interpreter said three out of 10 claims were fraudulent, the work of scammers or terrorists in search of easy money, and the claims required scrutiny.

Enter Palani. The lieutenant spoke with the Sudanese man with no left foot and no money and whom he believed.

Ibrahim was downcast: at the ambiguity of the fate of the money. He had asked the lieutenant to tell him truthfully if he would see it. Ibrahim said it was hard on his nerves.

He hadn't seen his children in 17 years. He wanted to know whether he should leave for home. Palani wanted to do something for the man until the next Wednesday. But not a last. Ibrahim never wanted a handout.

Palani had been trying for a prosthetic leg for Ibrahim. How about a wheelchair for now? Ibrahim looked at the folded thing. Yes, he knew how to use it. No, he couldn't get it home. Palani arranged him a ride.

It was the least he could do, the lieutenant said.

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.strips.osd.mil



Timing of Iraqi weapons theft in dispute

BY MARK MAZZETTI AND
MAGGIE FARLEY

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The White House has acknowledged that nearly 380 tons of powerful explosives are missing from a weapons facility that American forces failed to guard following the U.S. invasion of Iraq, but downplayed the significance of the finding.

The timing of the theft was in dispute. One Pentagon official said that when U.S. forces advancing toward Baghdad reached the Al Qaqaa military facility in early April

2003, the weapons cache was already gone. He suggested Americans never had a chance to safeguard the material, which had been labeled and was being monitored by U.N. weapons inspectors.

"It had already been looted by the time U.S. forces went through there," said a senior Defense official. "When the troops went in, they never saw anything that was tagged."

Some cast doubt on the Pentagon's claim. Given the size of the missing cache, it would have been difficult to move undetected before the U.S. invasion, when U.S. spy satellites were monitoring activity at

sites suspected of concealing nuclear and biological weapons.

"You don't just move this stuff in the middle of the night," said one former U.S. intelligence official who worked in Baghdad.

Iraqi officials reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency — the U.N. monitoring group — earlier this month that the explosives were looted after April 9, 2003, when U.S. forces entered Baghdad.

IAEA officials verified the explosives were still at the site and under seal in January 2003, the last time the inspectors were there.

The IAEA had been monitoring the mate-

rial — known as HMX and RDX — as part of the U.N. inspections program following the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Asked if U.S. troops were ever ordered to guard the facility, where Saddam built conventional warheads and where the IAEA dismantled parts of his nuclear program after the Gulf War, one Defense official responded, "Not that I'm aware of."

Officials at the White House, State Department and Pentagon insisted that 380 tons of stolen material are not nuclear threat, noting that roughly 400,000 tons of munitions collected throughout Iraq have either been destroyed or are in U.S. custody.

Education center opens door to advance troops' futures

BY JULIANA GITTIER

Stars and Stripes

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Soldiers wanting to advance their career, change jobs, become an officer or knock out some college courses during their down time in Iraq now have a few classrooms to try to reach those goals at LSA Anacanda.

"They're basically in a holding pattern while they're deployed," said LSA Anacanda and 13th Corps Support Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder. "They want to be promoted, they want to be warrant officers. They want to further their career. Education isn't necessarily part of the deployment package [so] we had to carve out something."

This past spring, an education center at the base started offering free classes and preparation programs for tests that can further a servicemember's military or civilian career.

It's the pet project of Army Reserve Maj. Kristi Hilton, usually a medical logistician and patient administrator in the Army, but a secondary special education teacher



JULIANA GITTIER/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Thomas Barnhart, education center noncommissioned officer-in-charge, teaches an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery class in the center, currently under construction.

in her civilian life.

"It was really important for soldiers to have a quiet place," said Hilton, "as quiet as you can have here, to let them get online."

The base commander gave Hilton, now the education officer in charge, a building for classrooms,

a lecture hall and computer lab.

In the spring, an Air Force unit arrived and brought with it an education services officer certified to administer standardized tests. The two services agreed to give soldiers the same benefits.

The current education services

officer, Master Sgt. Darryl King with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, can administer several standardized tests, including the Last School Admission Test and a variety of College Level Examination Program tests that give college credit for passing certain exams. Others can pursue a high school General Equivalency Diploma.

King can administer CLEP tests in 104 subjects.

"It's enough subjects to cover your general [college] requirements at least," King said.

The center may also create a few teachers. Pilots have volunteered to help prepare soldiers for the flight aptitude test required to become an aviator. Others on base teach computer courses and even an Arabic class.

For soldiers wishing to change careers or enter officer programs, the center has a three-week study session for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, the ASVAB. Servicemembers who have taken the course have raised their ASVAB scores by 20 points or more, Elder said.

"It's not a few points, it's a vast

improvement," he said.

Spc. Randolph Scott, with the 302nd Transportation Company, will leave Iraq in February with 18 college credits, six earned through the CLEP system and 12 more through online classes.

Scott was registered for college when he was activated for the Reserve last year. Through the center, he converted his registration to online and began classes, he said.

Since the center opened, thousands of people have passed through and taken tests and classes or enrolled in college online, said Hilton, who is helping other posts start similar programs.

She briefed command sergeants major in Baghdad and has worked with 50 installations to help them get the students cracking on the books, she said.

The education center is free and open to all services and Department of Defense civilians.

"It's another way to support soldiers," Elder said. "Bettering yourself, getting a degree. That's one of the goals here, to have a better soldier."

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Soldier in Kuwait dies after running Army Ten-Miler

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — A soldier in Kuwait collapsed and died Sunday morning shortly after completing the local version

of the Army Ten-Miler race.

The soldier, who witnesses said was a Georgia National Guardsman based at Camp Buehring, fell over near the finish line. About a half-dozen people gathered around and tried to revive him.

"They were giving him chest compressions for what seemed like an eternity," said a young soldier who witnessed the rescue effort.

The race organizer, Sgt. 1st Class Deborah George, called over the loudspeaker for medics. They tried four times to revive him with an electric defibrillator. Later, the soldier was loaded aboard a helicopter and flown to the hospital at Camp Arifjan. He was pronounced

dead shortly after arriving there, according to a statement from the Coalition Forces Land Component Command.

The soldier's name is not being released by the Pentagon until at least 24 hours after his family has been notified, according to Department of Defense policy.

About 700 servicemembers serving at bases in Kuwait joined in the race at Camp Buehring, held in conjunction with the annual

Army-sponsored race in Washington, D.C. The race was run in the early morning, with temperatures in the upper 70s or low 80s. It was the first time the race had been held in Kuwait.

After the helicopter left with the soldier, a chaplain led race participants and spectators in prayer. There was little celebration as race organizers handed out medals to the winners.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.strips.osd.mil

your guide to winter sports...



1st ID engineers build six Iraqi police stations

Engineers from the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team built six police stations in six days earlier this month in Samarra, Iraq, according to a news release from the 1st ID-led Task Force Danger in Tikrit.

The engineers, from the 216th Engineer Battalion and other units, constructed the stations at Forward Operating Base Speicher out of concrete at a cost of about \$100,000 apiece, the release said. Then they were trucked to Samarra, a city of 200,000 people northwest of Baghdad that until recently had been under rebel control.

The stations, for Iraqi police, were fortified with concrete barricades able to withstand rocket-propelled grenades, car bombs and mortars, according to the release. The engineers also furnished them with desks and chairs and even paper and brooms. The release said more construction on schools, hospitals and streets is planned. The rebuilding of Samarra has fallen behind other Iraqi cities because of rebel activity.

From staff reports

IN THE WORLD

Officials: Karzai clear winner in Afghan vote

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Counting in Afghanistan's presidential election concluded Tuesday, with U.S.-backed interim leader Hamid Karzai the clear winner even though some ballot boxes were "obviously stuffed," election officials said.

Investigators were still examining about 100 ballot boxes to clear up lingering fraud allegations, but the election's chief technical officer said the count was effectively "over and done."

"It's just these last drabs and drabs to be approved," David Avery said. "It's really nothing that can affect the outcome."

Election officials have said they will not announce the official results of the Oct. 9 vote until investigations into irregularities alleged by Karzai's main rivals

have been concluded. That could be this weekend.

The winner will be inaugurated in about a month.

Final results were not posted on the election Web site, either. But in a tally based on 98.4 percent of total votes cast, the U.S.-backed Karzai had 55.5 percent, which was 39 percentage points ahead of his closest challenger, former Education Minister Yunus Qanouni.

"If the fraud was not so serious, we would accept that Karzai has won," said Qanouni's running mate, Taj Mohammed Wardak.

Karzai had to receive more than 50 percent of the votes cast to avoid a runoff and secure a five-year term.

Karzai has been the interim leader since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001 after a U.S. invasion.

Karzai has racked up more

than 90 percent support in many parts of the south and east, which is dominated by his fellow Pashtun tribesmen, and leads in all major cities.

But rivals have eclipsed him across much of the north and center, the heartlands of Afghanistan's ethnic minorities, and charge that Karzai is ahead only through cheating.

Investigators had held back hundreds of boxes and say they have clear evidence of ballot-stuffing in some cases, though not on a scale that could overturn Karzai's majority.

"Some boxes were so obviously stuffed that we don't believe they were legitimately cast votes," said Ray Kennedy, deputy chairman of the joint U.N.-Afghan electoral commission.

That was an indication the commission will acknowledge irregularities — the key condition set by Qanouni for conceding defeat.



A U.N. worker reads the latest results of votes at a counting center in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday. Hamid Karzai was assured Monday to become the country's first democratically chosen president, officials said.

Guardian apologizes for Bush remarks

The Associated Press

LONDON — A British newspaper apologized Monday for a weekend article in which a writer appeared to call for the assassination of President Bush.

In a regular column in The Guardian newspaper's Saturday TV listings magazine, Charlie Brooker described Bush in scathing terms, and concluded: "John Wilkes Booth, Lee Harvey Oswald, John Hinckley Jr., where are you now that we need you?"

Booth assassinated President Lincoln, Oswald killed President Kennedy and Hinckley wounded President Reagan.

The Guardian's apology described Brooker's comments as "flippant and tasteless" but even more they were "intended as an ironic joke, not as a call to action — an intention he believed regular readers of his humorous column would understand."

It was the second time this month the newspaper was embroiled in a trans-Atlantic political controversy. Previously, it invited readers to write letters to unaffiliated voters in Clark County, Ohio, a swing state, about the importance of the Nov. 2 election.

The newspaper's Web site said letter-writers were free to support either Bush or S. John Kerry but noted that a Guardian poll showed 47 percent of Britons backed Kerry and 16 percent supported Bush.

The newspaper was overwhelmed by responses to their hostile — and the campaign after their Web site was broken into by hackers.



Surrounded by bodyguards, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrives for a special session of Israel's parliament in Jerusalem on Tuesday. After a two-day debate, the parliament is expected to approve Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

Sharon's Gaza plan likely to be approved

BY GAVIN RABINOWITZ
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A stormy two-day debate in the Israeli parliament wound down Tuesday, ahead of a historic vote on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. Approval was expected, and would mark the first time the Knesset agrees to the uprooting of Jewish settlements in lands claimed by the Palestinians for a state.

Sharon entered parliament on Tuesday afternoon, surrounded by 16 bodyguards, an unprecedented number. Outside, police cordoned off the building, restricting entry, as thousands of settlers gathered in a nearby park to protest the plan. Protection for Sharon has been beefed up in recent weeks amid growing concern he could be attacked by right-wing extremists.

The withdrawal plan has bitterly divided the nation, and solidified Sharon's transformation from long-time patron of the Jewish settlers to their No. 1 nemesis.

Tuesday's vote is the climax of a monthlong confrontation over Sharon's "unilateral disengagement" plan, which has torn apart

the ruling Likud Party and weakened his coalition government.

The vote also came on the nine-year anniversary, according to the Jewish calendar, of the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by an extremist Jew opposed to his peace efforts.

Sharon opened the parliament debate Monday, defending his plan as the only way to secure Israel's future. "This is a fateful moment for Israel," he declared in a speech that was repeatedly interrupted by hecklers.

Sharon told lawmakers that supporting the withdrawal, which will uproot 8,800 settlers from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements, was the most difficult decision of his long career.

However, he said Israel does not want to rule over millions of Palestinians and suggested the settlers were unreasonable in their opposition. Sharon even made some conciliatory remarks toward the Palestinians, expressing regret for the plight of refugees displaced by fighting with Israel.

"This is the way of war. However, war is not inevitable and predestined," he said. "Even today, we regret the loss of innocent lives in your midst. Our way is not one of intentional killing."

Arafat breaks Ramadan fast for health reasons

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — A weakened Yasser Arafat broke his Ramadan fast at the urging of his doctors Tuesday, and was undergoing more medical tests, aides said, as Israeli officials speculated he is suffering from a serious illness.

Arafat's aides have insisted that the 75-year-old Palestinian leader only has a bad case of the flu, and is recovering.

However, there is growing speculation that Arafat is suffering from more than a minor illness. Teams of Egyptian and Tunisian doctors have examined him in recent days. On Monday, he underwent an endoscopy, an exam of the digestive tract. And he has not led Muslim evening prayers at his makeshift mosque in his compound, as he has done in the past during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Doctors have urged Arafat to rest and

break the dawn-to-dusk Ramadan fast, saying he needs liquids and must take his medication at regular intervals. For the first 11 days of Ramadan, Arafat refused, but on Tuesday broke the fast for the first time, said a confidant, Salih Habash, who visited the Palestinian leader.

Arafat was to undergo more testing Tuesday, including blood tests, an official close to the Palestinian leader said on condition of anonymity.

U.S. urges N. Korea to resume nuke talks

BY SANG-HUN CHOE

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Secretary of State Colin Powell urged North Korea on Tuesday to rein in nuclear disarmament talks if it wants international aid.

South Korea called on Washington and other participants in six-party talks to show more flexibility in resolving the nuclear standoff — comments that appeared to distance Seoul from U.S. proposals.

Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon urged "all participating countries in the six-nation talks to make more creative and realistic proposals to help bring North Korea to the talks as soon as possible."

Powell said Washington has no intention of changing its North Korea policy soon, but would work to resolve the nuclear dispute. "We agreed to continue devoting maximum efforts to achieving this goal through multilateral diplomacy and six-party talks," Powell said in a joint news conference with the South Korean foreign minister.

"Clearly, everybody wants to see the next round of six-party talks get started," Powell said, referring to the stalled talks among the United States, the two Koreas, China, Japan and Russia. "This is the time to move forward, to bring this matter to a conclusion."

He said the goal was to help the

South Korea concludes holes in DMZ fence not likely made by enemy infiltrator from North

BY SANG-HUN CHOE

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Mysterious holes found in a wire fence along the tense border with North Korea were most likely used not by communist infiltrators but by a South Korean defector to the North, South Korea's military said Tuesday.

The highly unusual discovery of the holes — found in a fence checked daily by troops for signs of infiltration — had triggered fears of North Korean commandos slipping through the border and led South Korea to tighten roadblocks and traffic checks north of Seoul.

The increased security along the roads between the tense front line and Seoul came as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was visiting South Korea to discuss ways to restart stalled talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons programs.

"After investigating the way the fence was cut and the foot prints in the scene, we have concluded that an unidentified person crossed into the north," said Brig. Gen. Hwang Joong-sun, an operational officer

at the South Korean military's Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff. "We have terminated our military operation against possible enemy infiltration," he added.

Given the crude job of cutting the fence, Hwang said, South Korea believed that the person was a South Korean civilian, not a North Korean agent returning home after a mission in the South.

Earlier Tuesday, South Korea said its nighttime border guards found a hole in the wire fence that forms the southern boundary of the 2.5-mile wide Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas.

The 16-inch by 12-inch hole, which was cut through two layers of wire fence yards apart, was discovered early Tuesday near Yeoncheon, a border town 40 miles north of Seoul.

The military later reported another hole in a separate wire fence 0.7 mile inside the buffer zone.

South Korea had imposed "Jindogyae-1" around Yeoncheon, the highest level of vigilance the military can issue before an actual sighting of a communist infiltrator. On the roads between Yeoncheon and Seoul, soldiers and armored vehicles joined police at check points.

people of impoverished North Korea have a better life, in part by providing more food aid.

"We don't intend to attack North Korea, we don't have any hostile intent notwithstanding their claims," he said. "It is this nuclear issue that is keeping the international community from assisting North Korea."

U.S. officials believe North Korea is biding its time on six-party talks, sensing that Democratic candidate John Kerry might win the election and be easier to deal with than Bush.

Powell, who was in Seoul following visits this week to Japan and China, also met Tuesday with South Korean President Roh

Moo-hyun and South Korea's unification minister.

Powell predicted that North Korea will return to the talks after next week's U.S. election, South Korean officials said.

Three rounds of six-party talks, held in Beijing, have yielded little progress. North Korea skipped a fourth round that was to have

taken place in September, and lashed out Tuesday at Washington.

"It is impossible to open the talks now that the U.S. is becoming evermore undisgusting in its hostile policy toward the [North]," said North Korea's official news agency, KCNA.

"The Bush administration is employing a double standard of misbehavior: the public opinion at home and abroad and garner support from more electors," it said.

North Korea reiterated that it would resign the six-nation talks only if Washington is ready to roll back its hostile policy, and offer a "reward" for freezing its nuclear development.

The United States is seeking the permanent denuclearization of North Korea and has said it will provide the compensation to govt. to accommodate the interests of other parties, he said. "The way to move forward is to have the next round of six party talks, so that we can discuss that proposal and not have us negotiating with ourselves in a press conference."

Powell rejected the North's demand that Washington change its proposals.

"We modified [our proposal] for the third round of six-party talks, showed flexibility and tried to accommodate the interests of other parties," he said. "The way to move forward is to have the next round of six party talks, so that we can discuss that proposal and not have us negotiating with ourselves in a press conference."

Vatican lays out views on social issues

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — A Vatican handbook has laid out Roman Catholic Church teaching questioning preventive war and denouncing the "horrendous crime" of abortion. But Vatican officials sidestepped questions on whether the war in Iraq was illegal or if Catholics can vote for candidates who back laws permitting abortion.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls quickly intervened at a news conference Monday when a top Vatican cardinal was asked if the faithful can cast ballots for a candidate who supports legalized abortion. "The Holy See never gets involved in electoral or political questions directly," he said.

U.S. Senator John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate, said Catholic voters said that while personally opposed to abortion, he upholds the right of women to have one.

Pope John Paul II has vigorously championed the Vatican's long-standing opposition to abortion, which was denounced as a "horrendous crime" in the Vatican document released Monday.

"Far from being a right, it is a social phenomenon."

Some U.S. churchmen have said Kerry should be denied the sacrament of Communion.



Noelia Garcia holds her son Ismael, 1, in her home in Havana, Cuba, while watching a special presentation of Cuban President Fidel Castro announcing Monday that U.S. dollars will no longer be accepted at stores or other businesses on the communist island.

Nazi criminals sought

BERLIN — A Jewish group said Monday it expects to begin a program in January to track down the last surviving Nazi war criminals in Germany.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center said that "Operation Last Chance," which already has programs in several European countries, has been delayed several times in Germany but will now kick off there on Jan. 27, Holocaust Remembrance Day, said Efraim Zuroff, the director of the center's Jerusalem office.

The program currently pays up to who provide information leading to investigation, prosecution or punishment of Nazi-era war criminals Zuroff said. The center is covering paying more in Germany.

78 die in Thai arrests

PATTANI, Thailand — At least 78 people were suffocated or crushed to death after being arrested and packed into police trucks following a riot in southern Thailand, officials said Tuesday.

Dr. Phiphat Rojanasuman, a forensic expert who works for the Justice Ministry, said Tuesday that she and a team of doctors examining a list of 78 bodies at an army camp in Pattani province and found that most had perished from suffocation.

The dead were among some 1,300 people that military officials said had been arrested Monday following a riot in which about 2,000 Muslim youths demonstrated outside a police station, demanding the release of six detained men.

From The Associated Press

Cuba to stop using U.S. dollar for transactions

BY ANITA SNOW

The Associated Press

HAVANA — Moving to wean its communist economic system from the U.S. currency, Cuba said dollars will no longer be accepted at businesses and stores, a dramatic change in how commercial transactions have been done here in more than a decade.

The resolution announced Monday by Cuba's Central Bank seemed aimed at finding new sources for foreign reserves and regain more control over its own economy as the U.S. government steps up efforts to prevent dollars from reaching the island as part of a strategy to undermine Fidel Castro's government.

Cuba's national currency, the peso, cannot be used with international partners.

"Beginning on November 8, the convertible peso will begin to circulate in substitution of the dollar throughout the national territory," Castro said in a written message read by his chief aide Carlos Valenciano. In his message, Castro asked Cubans to tell rela-

tives living abroad to send them money in other foreign currencies, such as euros, British sterling or Swiss francs.

Cubans and others on the island can still hold dollars in unlimited quantities and can change them into pesos before the new policy takes effect. But they will have to pay a 10 percent charge to exchange dollars with the bank to be even more miserable. "It is predicting remittances from those major Cuban American communities would pick up again, despite the difficulty of sending them and the 10 percent charge.

"In the short term, there may be a slip in the remittances," said John Kervulich, president of the U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, which tracks business between the two countries. Some estimates on annual remittances to Cuba are as high as \$1 billion. "But going into the holidays, people in Miami and New Jersey won't want the holidays for their families on the island to be even more miserable." "It is predicting remittances from those major Cuban American communities would pick up again, despite the difficulty of sending them and the 10 percent charge.

IN THE STATES

Rehnquist's illness makes Court an issue

BY ALLEN PUSEY

The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — With barely a week to go before the presidential election, the U.S. Supreme Court announced Monday that Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

The 80-year-old chief justice was admitted Friday to Bethesda Naval Medical Center near Washington where he underwent a tracheotomy and treatment, according to a brief statement issued by the court.

Although he is expected to be in his customary seat at center bench when the high court returns from a brief recess on Monday, the news has propelled the is-

suess of age, health and the upcoming presidential election into an uncertain view of the future of the court.

"I think that it's unfortunate that a health problem should have to occur to make it so, but I think this is raising the saliency of the court as an issue," said C. Boyden Gray, a former high-level legal adviser in two Republican administrations.

"It's not been on the front-burn-

er. With issues like war, terrorism, and the economy it's hard to get it into the top five, I guess. But the future of the court should be up there with them," said Gray.

"The chief justice's health may have helped focus the issue, but the question is: how sharp is the focus?" said Dennis Hutchinson, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School. "I think it's something that just whiffs by most people."

Supreme Court justices, like all federal judges, are appointed for life. The only way a justice can be removed is by resignation or death or impeachment. Still, their durability as humans and viability as jurists have been an occasional issue in the sometimes-volatile 225-year history of the court.

Until Monday's revelation, the chief justice had done everything he could to discourage persistent speculation that he wanted to leave the court.

His staff has been hired through 2006. In his well-received histories of the court, he often observes the longevity of historically important justices — leaving unspoken the fact that he is currently the eighth-oldest serving justice in history and rapidly moving up.

Still, at 80 questions of age and health have become more persistent. And despite the chief justice's efforts to discourage it, speculation about his departure from the court — along with others — has been persistent with each new term.

He is the fourth justice on the current court to be diagnosed with cancer. Justices John Paul Stevens (prostate), Ruth Bader Ginsburg (colon) and Sandra Day O'Connor (breast) have each had to undergo treatment for the disease.

Rehnquist is one of two now older than 80, one of eight above the retirement age of 65. Only one among his colleagues — Justice Clarence Thomas — was born after World War II.

"Chief Justice Rehnquist has had health problems in the past," said Robert C. Percival of the University of Maryland School of Law. "But I don't think that anyone questions his ability to think and participate fully in the court's business."

Cingular purchase of AT&T Wireless gets fed approval

BY JENNIFER C. KERR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission gave its approval Tuesday to Cingular Wireless LLC's \$41 billion acquisition of AT&T Wireless Services Inc., completing the federal regulatory blessing necessary for creation of the country's largest cell phone company.

The move follows Monday's announcement that Justice Department antitrust regulators approved the deal. Both agencies attached conditions to ensure there is adequate competition in different markets.

"We believe our conditions, combined with the benefits to the consumer experience brought by Cingular's new scale and scope, will ensure the public interest is served by this transaction," said FCC Chairman Michael Powell.

The two Democrats on the five-member commission dissented in part to the merger, saying they were concerned the loss of AT&T Wireless could have a negative impact on the wireless market.

"In many major in-region markets, Cingular now will have almost half of the mobile wireless market share. And in allowing the acquisition of AT&T Wireless, we permanently remove an independent source of competition to Cingular, SBC and BellSouth," Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said.

Cingular is a joint venture between BellSouth Corp. and SBC Communications Inc.

The merger would give Atlanta-based Cingular about 47.6 million subscribers. That would top Verizon Wireless, the current market leader with 40.4 million customers as of midyear, while paring the number of national cell phone providers to five.

Under the FCC plan, the companies will not be allowed to merge in 16 markets and must divest themselves of assets in six additional markets.

Cingular is in 15 states: Oklahoma, Texas, Kentucky, Arkansas, Connecticut, Mississippi, Missouri, Michigan, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Georgia, California, Nevada and North Carolina.

Officials weighing new sanctions on Lebanon

WASHINGTON — With Syria defying international pressure to withdraw from Lebanon and with tensions over Iraq still high, the Bush administration is weighing new sanctions on some Lebanese officials.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., said she is confident the administration will support a request she made along with Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., to freeze the assets of Lebanese officials with close ties to Syria.

"I think that all signs point to the fact that the Bush administration is going to take these measures," said Ros-Lehtinen, chairwoman of the House International Relations Middle East subcommittee. "It's a matter of timing whether it will be now, whether it will be a little bit later."

Acting under legislation pushed by the two lawmakers, President Bush in May banned all American exports to Syria except food and medicine and barred Syrian planes from landing in the United States. The Bush administration considers Syria a sponsor of terrorism and has criticized its military presence in Lebanon and its failure to do more to secure its border with Iraq.

From The Associated Press



Treasure hunter and marine archaeologist Joel Ruth uses a metal detector to look for ancient coins unearthed by beach erosion caused by Hurricane Jeanne in Indianialite, Florida.

Hurricane unburies beach treasure

BY RICH MCKAY

The Orlando Sentinel

INDIANALITE, Fla. — It is the stuff of pirate legends, but do not waste your breath asking Joel Ruth on what stretch of Florida's Treasure Coast he found his hoard of Spanish pieces of eight — waiting to be scratched out of the sand with bare fingers and toes.

Treasure hunters guard their secrets.

Especially, if like Ruth, they have just found about 180 near-mint silver coins worth more than \$40,000.

To most Floridians, hurricane season is the time to board up windows and dread the worst. But to professional and amateur treasure seekers, it is the time to hit the beaches and hunt lost riches.

"It's why we're called the Treasure Coast," said Ruth, a bookish 52-year-old marine archaeologist with an African parrot named Euclid who has learned to squawk "treasure" or eight.

It takes the big storms like Jeanne and Frances to rake several feet of sand off the beaches and expose gold, silver and gems sunk and scattered centuries ago.

But making a find takes more

than walking the beaches with a metal detector. What separates those who make a real find from the legions of beachcombers is knowledge and patience, said Sir Robert F. Marx.

Marx is an underwater archaeologist and marine historian who was knighted by both the Spanish and English crowns for his work, including about 800 popular and scientific articles and about 60 books.

His colleague Ruth, for instance, has been keeping his eye on a certain stretch of beach in Brevard County, Fla., for 20 years, checking it every so often as the years go by, Marx said. He and Ruth think the find is part of a sunken treasure fleet off Florida's Atlantic coast.

But it took Jeanne to bring a sliver of the shoreline back to where it was in 1715, he said.

That is the year a famous Spanish treasure fleet of about a dozen ships sunk in a summer hurricane, bloated with treasure headed for Philip V of Spain, Marx said.

Captain-General Don Juan Esteban de Uvilla, commander of the flotilla carrying gems, gold, silver and porcelain from China — hence the name Plate Fleet —

set sail in the late summer 289 years ago.

Under pressure from the king to bring treasure to boost a war-ravaged economy, Uvilla set sail even though hurricane season had already started. Leading with the Capitana, the fleet hugged Florida's Atlantic coast, heading north in the hopes of catching the trade winds of the Gulf Stream. With no more warning than a morning of steel-gray skies, a tempest snapped the ships like matchsticks, a few survivors would later tell.

Nautical records of salvage attempts and previous finds pointed to the spot Ruth stalked out to search. Others knew the spot and have made finds there, too.

The basic rules of treasure hunting on beaches include finding keepers, but do not dig into the dunes or in protected areas.

Because riches go to those who are there first, "You have to be Johnny on the spot," said Mitch King, vice president of the Treasure Coast Archaeological Society.

"Hurricane Jeanne did more destruction than any storm has in years," King said. The last storm to yield finds like Ruth's happened on Thanksgiving about two decades ago, he added. Treasure hunters still whisper about it.

Registration challenges

COLUMBUS, Ohio — State Republicans withdrew thousands of more than 35,000 challenges to new voter registrations because of errors in their filings apparently caused by a computer glitch.

Republicans filed the challenges Friday in 65 of Ohio's 88 counties, saying mail sent to the newly registered voters was returned as undeliverable.

Over the weekend, the party withdrew about 4,700 challenges in Hamilton County because the names and addresses on the GOP lists didn't match voter rolls, and Franklin County officials in Columbus accepted 2,371 challenges, rejecting half of about 4,200 filed.

Challenged voters will be notified by mail that they are entitled to attend a hearing with proof of their address.

Michigan voting woes

DETROIT — With a little more than a week to go before Election Day, voters in Michigan who hoped to rely on provisional ballots were left in limbo by a court ruling.

A federal appeals court panel on Sunday put on hold a judge's order requiring some provisional ballots to be counted even if they are cast in the wrong precinct. It was the federal panel's second ruling in two days against Democrats seeking to ease voting restrictions.

Provisional ballots — required in all states for the first time this year — are used when voters say they are properly registered but their names are not on the registration rolls.

Kerry thanks Poland

WARSAW, Poland — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry thanked Poland in a newspaper interview published Monday for its military involvement in Iraq and promised Polish businesses a chance for lucrative reconstruction contracts there should he win Nov. 2 election.

The comments, published in the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily, came after President Aleksander Kwasniewski criticized Kerry for allegedly playing down the Poles' contribution to the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

"I am grateful to Poland for standing by the Euro-American partnership these last few years and for its courageous contributions to Iraq," Kerry said in the interview, which was broadcast by Nowy Dziennik, a Polish language paper published in the United States. "I will not forget that."

Bush scoffs at rumor

WASHINGTON — President Bush and the vice president — and the rumor — in the idea that aides could secretly feed him advice through a radio receiver hidden on his back.

"Please explain to me how it works so maybe if I were ever to debate again I could figure it out," Bush said Tuesday on ABC television's "Good Morning America."

After television cameras showed a box-shaped bulge on his back during the first presidential debate last month, the president wondered whether Bush had been wired to receive help with his responses from aides such as White House press secretary and chief of staff Karen Hughes.

From The Associated Press

Candidates still trading attacks

Kerry says president hides bad decisions; Bush asks Democrats to cross over

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
AND CALVIN WOODWARD

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Democratic candidate John Kerry accused President Bush on Tuesday of hiding bad decisions and raised the specter of bad news still to be revealed. Bush invited Democrats to cross over to his campaign as it began its final week, arguing that their party was no longer led by men of strength and resolve.

Kerry said a stream of bad news coming out of Iraq showed the Bush administration glossing over the reality of the situation there.

"Mr. President, what else are you being silent about? What else are you keeping from the American people?" Kerry said in Green Bay.

While Kerry campaigned on the east side of Wisconsin, a state Bush barely lost to Al Gore in 2000, the president sought votes from Democrats as well as Republicans on the west side of the state.

In Onalaska, Bush said Kerry had chosen a path of "weakness and inaction," putting himself "in opposition not just to me, but to the great tradition of the Democratic Party."

"The party of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman and John Kennedy is rightly remembered for confidence and resolve in times of war and in hours of crisis. Senator Kerry has turned his back on 'pay any price' and 'bear any burden,'" Bush said.

The president also renewed his contention that Kerry would raise taxes in a way that would cripple small businesses "to pay for all the new spending he's proposed."

The Massachusetts senator pressed his case that Bush has bungled and misled on the Iraq

war and national security crises generally.

"When the president is faced with the consequences of his own bad decisions, he doesn't confront them, he tries to hide them," Kerry said. "The truth is, President Bush isn't leveling with the American people about what you know. He's going, or what he is doing to put Iraq on track."

And Kerry broadened the attack to declare, "Just as he has been warned about his mistakes in Iraq, George Bush has been warned time and time again about the vulnerability of our homeland security."

Kerry said he would spend an additional \$60 billion over 10 years on homeland security, using the money to screen cargo for nuclear materials at ports and borders, add border patrol agents and more.

Bush, who lost Wisconsin and its 10 electoral votes by only 5,708 ballots in 2000, was focusing his efforts on Democratic-leaning regions of the state.

Warning up for that task in his last stop Monday, in Davenport, Iowa, Bush ditched his single-focus, national security speech of earlier events in favor

of a broader pitch praising the traditions of the Democratic Party, a theme he returned to on Tuesday.

In a television interview Tuesday, Bush said he didn't oppose civil unions for same-sex couples even though the Republican Party platform opposes them. However, he supports banning gay marriage through a constitutional amendment.

"I don't think we should deny people rights to a civil union, a legal arrangement, if that's what a state chooses to do so," Bush said on "Good Morning America" on ABC. "I view the definition of marriage different from legal arrangements that enable people to have rights."

Bush and Kerry are competing head-on for a distinct set of battleground states — Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida among them — but other states are getting a second look, too, because of signs of fluidity.

Polls found a tightening race in Arkansas, which Bush won in 2000 and the Democrats had not seen as a serious prospect this time. New Hampshire, narrowly won by Bush in 2000, seemed to be moving Kerry's way in the final stretch.

Calvin Woodward in Washington and Deb Riechmann in La Crosse, Wis., contributed to this article.

Pol: Americans have doubts about election

BY WILL LESTER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Memories of Florida's contested 2000 presidential election and a growing number of pre-election lawsuits are making Americans skeptical about a voting process they once took for granted.

Six in 10 of those surveyed in an Associated Press poll say it's likely there will not be a clear winner in the presidential race by Nov. 3 — the day after the election. About half say they fear the results will be challenged in court, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos Public Affairs.

Both Democrats and Republicans worry about the possibility of an unresolved election — though Democrats express more worries. About seven in 10 Democrats worry, 69 percent, say they think it's likely there won't be a clear winner by Election Day, while almost six in 10 Republican voters, 56 percent, say they feel that way.

With both political parties putting thousands of lawyers on call for Election Day, a majority of both Democrats and Republicans — just over half of each — expect the election results will be challenged in court.

"I read the other day that there's going to be a perfect storm," Jack Martin, a businessman who lives near Salt Lake City, said of the growing number of lawsuits. "I think it's coming down to the courts. It worries me

AP POLL

Voter confidence on election outcome

While most adults are confident that their vote for president will be properly counted, many also think it is likely that election results will be challenged in court, according to an AP poll.

How confident are you that the votes in your state will be counted accurately?



How likely is it that on the day after the presidential election there will not be a clear winner?



How likely is it that the results of the presidential election will be challenged in court?



Thinking back to the 2000 presidential election, do you think we got a fair and accurate vote in Florida?



3% Not sure

NOTE: The poll of 1,000 adults conducted Oct. 22-24 has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

SOURCE: Ipsos-Public Affairs for AP

about the election system. I used to think every vote counts."

Both parties already have filed lawsuits over a variety of complaints — from how provisional ballots are counted to alleged fraud in voter registration. Judges in several states have issued disparate rulings on provisional ballots, which are required under law for voters who show up at the polls only to find their names are not on the voter rolls.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati is expected to hear arguments this week on the use of provisional ballots in Michigan. It is unclear whether

the court will rule before the election.

A majority say they are confident the vote count in their own state will be accurate. Fewer than half of Democrats say they are "very confident" their state's vote count will be accurate, while three-fourths of Republicans feel that way.

Lori McKay, 29, a Republican from St. Louis, says she thinks election officials will get things right this time.

"After the problems last time, I'm thinking they will do a better job," she said.

In the closing days of the cam-

paign, the national parties are keeping especially close tabs on Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa and New Mexico, all presidential battleground states where a challenge to a close race might be lodged Nov. 3.

Florida in 2000 turned into a political and legal ground zero over a Bush-Gore recount. After 36 days, the U.S. Supreme Court handed Bush a 537-vote victory in Florida and, thus, the presidency.

More than half in the poll, 54 percent, say they think the vote count in Florida was not fair and accurate, with Republicans overwhelmingly saying it was and Democrats overwhelmingly saying it was not. Independents say by a 2-to-1 margin that it was not fair.

Pamela Martin, a 52-year-old Democrat from Miami, says she was "not too confident" Nov. 2, 2004 will be any better than Florida than the last time around. Martin, who is black, says she heard plenty of stories about blacks who had trouble voting last time.

Worries about politics and legal challenges far outweigh worries about terrorist attacks intended to disrupt the elections, the poll found.

Just under one-third of those polled say they expect terrorists will attempt to disrupt elections. Election officials in many states are taking steps to improve security at polling places but are looking for ways to heighten readiness without posting armed police.

AP Manager of News Surveys Trevor Tompson contributed to this report.

OPINION

As Putin turns back clock, West watches

BY JACKSON DIEHL
The Washington Post

Imagine that an imperial-minded president resolved to intervene aggressively in a strategic country with a fragile democracy to ensure the election of a favored client. To do so, he summoned his nominee and publicly embraced him; channelled hundreds of millions of dollars to his campaign; arranged for television stations broadcasting in the target country to openly boost the favorite and slander his opponent; opened hundreds of polling stations in his own country so that "expatriates" could vote; and, to top it off, scheduled a trip to the foreign capital three days before the election to stomp in person.

Even Hamid Karzai or Ayad Allawi would be shamed by such a campaign, if it were launched by President Bush. What's more, the rest of the world would loudly condemn American interventionism. Yet Viktor Yanukovich, prime minister and presidential candidate of Ukraine, has humbly welcomed all this and more from Russian President Vladimir Putin — and Western governments have responded with a studied silence.

What's strange about this is that Ukraine's outgoing president, Leonid Kuchma, was probably right when he recently boasted that the election of his replacement on Oct. 31 would rank second only to Iraq's upcoming vote in geopolitical importance. The contest between Yanukovich and challenger Viktor Yushchenko likely will determine whether a European country the size of France, with 50 million citizens, remains an imperfect democracy or slides toward authoritarian rule. And it may well resolve whether 2004, like 1947-48, is remembered as a year when a Moscow-orchestrated mix of rigged elections and dirty tricks turned

several Eastern European countries into satelites.

Sound exaggerated? Consider what has been happening in Belarus and Ukraine, which lie between Russia and the expanded European Union and NATO.

Last week Belarus held a referendum on making strongman Alexander Lukashenko, who already has agreed to reunite his country with Russia, the equivalent of president-for-life. An exit poll conducted by the Gallup Organization showed that the proposition failed. But when Belarusian authorities announced it had passed with 77 percent of the vote, Russia quickly pronounced the vote free and fair.

In Kiev, meanwhile, Yanukovich was pronouncing himself touched by the news that Putin would travel to Kiev this week to appear with him at a parade celebrating the city's capture by Soviet troops 60 years ago. "I will forever be grateful," said the burly prime minister, who was publicly kissed by Putin at his home in Moscow this month.

He should be. According to opposition sources, Russia has supplied half of the \$600 million that Yanukovich is spending on his campaign — including a \$200 million payment from the Kremlin-controlled energy giant Gazprom. Russian state television, which is seen by most Ukrainians, has campaigned unrelentingly for Yanukovich.

Pro-Yanukovich billboards have appeared across Moscow, and expatriate Ukrainians will have the chance to vote at some 400 polling places in Russia. Russian political advisers have arrived in Kiev to conduct on-the-spot spin. Russian pop singers are touring the country and boosting Yanukovich at concerts.

In return, Yanukovich promised Putin at their last meeting that he would end Ukraine's policy of seeking membership in NATO, promote an open border and dual citi-



zenship for Russians and Ukrainians, make Russia the country's second official language, and subordinate Ukraine's bid for membership in the World Trade Organization to the requirements of forming the "single economic space," the Putin initiative to create a new union with Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Yanukovich would also entrench Putin's brand of authoritarian politics in his country. Already Ukrainian media, like their Russian counterparts, are delivering orchestrated and one-sided support to Yanukovich, while many opposition media outlets have been closed down.

Yushchenko's rallies have frequently been disrupted by thugs, and the candidate himself felt mysteriously and gravely ill last month — the result, he says, of a poisoning meant to eliminate him.

Despite all this, Yushchenko continues to hold a single-digit lead in the polls. That's because the former banker and prime minister is responsible for many of the free-market reforms that have allowed the Ukrainian economy to flourish, and because he promises that he will continue to lead an independent and democratic country toward partnership with the West.

The Bush administration and other Western governments hope for his success but privately expect that Yanukovich will win or steal the election in a mid-November runoff. Putin, they know, will aid and abet that — and then set about integrating Ukraine into his authoritarian bloc. No one has challenged the Russian president on his aggressive imperialism — which probably means that it will grow.

Jackson Diehl is a deputy editorial page editor for The Post.

Electoral antique leads to incomplete roadshow

Los Angeles Times

Late Nov. 2, the electoral-vote tallies mount on TVs across the land. It's very close. Who's to become the 44th president? Suddenly, this just in: Colorado voters approve Amendment 36. Wait! But wait! This referendum divvies that state's nine electoral votes proportionally, not winner-take-all.

And it would take effect that night.

If Amendment 36 passes and the election comes down to those last few electoral votes, the nation could agree to the president-shopping until Christmas. But remove the immediate pain from the idea itself, and the righteousness is clear. This is a nation still moving toward a union more of people than of states. Colorado gives new breath to an idea that is irrefutably democratic.

A great attraction of American democracy, funny has aside, is its dynamism, the ability to, as dynamic English usage puts it, morph. The Electoral College, the arcane institution that turns the national presidential selection process into winner-take-all state elections, is ripe for morphing.

"Electoral College" is one of those history lessons that doesn't stick anymore. Its roots in indirect presidential elections mean nothing in a full voting democracy. Every four years, we hear the numbers: 539 total, 270 needed to win. Maps are colored in red and blue. But that's not all. The practical result of winner-take-all has been to cut from the campaign process any state not in play. No point for Sen. John Kerry to invest precious time learning Republican is-

ms in Montana or enlarging a double-digit lead in California. Same for President Bush in solidly Democratic New York or GOP Virginia. All ballots for each state's loser are, in effect, discarded.

Getting rid of the Electoral College would require amending the Constitution. But electoral-vote allocating is left to states, so there's no cumbersome amendment process to slow that more-modest reform by legislatures or voter petitions. Although anyone hoping for a smooth election wishes Colorado's measure would not be effective immediately if it passes, Maine and Nebraska already do it, and the nation still stands.

Political scientists have written books on

the million possible permutations. If California alone went proportional, how could a Democratic president be elected? Some things would be more certain.

With the United States navigating an era of tight political divisions, proportional electoral voting virtually precludes one candidate winning the popular vote while losing the electoral tally, as happened in 2000.

Reforming the Electoral College is like preventing forest fires, seeming urgent only when the flames (or elections) are near. Incentive for electoral change also has to come from challengers of entrenched power. That usually augurs ill for reform.

Colorado's Republican governor opposes Amendment 36, petitioned onto the ballot by an anti-Electoral College foundation. Why share nine likely Republican electoral votes, especially this year? California's strongly Democratic Legislature would have even harder.

Unless, by some fluke, statesmanship broke out and greater good outweighed self-interest briefly.

Hope does reside in history's deliciously unpredictable ironies. To retain its power, the Federalist Party pushed the winner-take-all Electoral College in the late 1700s. Federalists got their way. But they never won nationally after 1786. A proportionate lesson there.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

Checking changes start soon

Stars and Stripes

U.S. banks will be changing the way checks are processed Thursday under a new federal law called Check 21.

Check 21 allows banks to transmit electronic images of checks rather than physically transport them from one bank to another.

The changes are expected to make checking more efficient, speeding up the gap between when a check is written and when the money is taken from an account, according to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Banks will turn the electronic images into a substitute check, a paper copy of the original. These checks will work as proof of payment and may appear in monthly statements with original checks since not all checks will be converted.

Your Community Bank, operated by Bank of America for military overseas, will be phasing in the change over the next 12 months, said a DFAS release.

Q. You helped me find an easy way to back up e-mail files in a recent answer to another reader. Now I need help with my remaining problem: viewing faxes.

I know that the faxes I need to open come in a format called AWD but when I try to click on them in Windows XP they won't open. So all kinds of faxes from my earlier Windows 98 computer are now unavailable for use. I've tried everything I can find on the Internet including removing the faxes to a different extension. Help.

— Judith Monks, Hertford, N.C.

A. Faxes may be fading away like floppy disks but they're not dead yet, despite Microsoft's best efforts. Ms. M.

Windows XP and many fax machines now use a format called TIFF to hold the picture data for fax messages instead of the earlier AWD. So the built-in fax viewer called Windows Picture and Fax Viewer can't open them.

The fix is easier than it sounds but a needless hassle that could have been avoided. Microsoft, you see, knew folks like you were going to howl, so the company included a small program on the Windows XP installation CD that will convert AWD files into TIFF formats so they can be viewed. But you've got to work at it, says Microsoft.

So put the XP disc in the CD player and then close down the pop-up messages that will install the operating system. Now click on My Computer and then right-click on the CD icon and select Explorer. Look for the folder on the CD named i386 and then go down to the folder named WIN9ximg. In that folder is a Fax folder and in the Fax folder is the program you need, called awd2tiff.exe.

Drag this program to your desktop. Now click the My Computer icon open and open the C: icon and drag the program there so it is in a so-called root directory where executable programs belong.

Now click on Start and Run and then type in cmd and tap Enter. In the box this brings up, type in awd2tiff.exe and tap Enter. This will give a list of the possible commands to use with the program. You need to use the one called /c that converts between the formats.

So then type awd2tiff.exe /c filename.awd and the program will create a viewable file called filename.tif.

Q. I read your review on the hard-drive-indexing software XI and it looks like it would help me a great deal searching through e-mail messages and other files for specific keywords.

But I've got a security concern. In investigating it, I found it opens all files when indexing. Some of my files are e-mail messages that were rejected as spam by my spam program and could contain viruses. Others are isolated quarantined viruses. I don't know which ones are bad.

Is there a work-around? I am using several virus protection programs including Norton AntiVirus. Is there any way I can get around this problem for evaluation? — Jerrold F. Maxwell, Minooka, Ill.

A. A lot of people had that question after downloading and running a test version of this hard-drive indexing program by XI Technologies Inc., Mr. M.

You all noted with dismay that the anti-virus software kicked in warning that a virus had been detected each time the software had an index of all e-mail messages.

Not to worry, say company officials, and I buy their explanation.

Many users with anti-virus software get cold feet when programs like Norton pop up warnings that virus-laden e-mail attachments have been found and quarantined as XI starts to do its stuff. The software then offers to delete all the quarantined stuff, but many users don't want to risk losing something essential so they opt to just leave the stuff on the hard drive where it is safely quarantined and not likely to attack.

XI works by making a copy of every e-mail attachment and putting it in a temporary folder for a few seconds while the content is read and indexed, as are all files on the computer. The anti-virus software detects this copy's sudden appearance and beeps a warning that it is infected.

Noel Ferreira, a customer service representative at XI, has posted an explanation that the indexing is done without executing any files and so viruses cannot be triggered. The software doesn't run any of the software that creates files but uses its own built-in, read-only viewers to display content like words, pictures and data cells.

To stop the warnings, says Ferreira, folks should follow up and order virus-laden attachments deleted rather than just quarantined.

Whether or not you try this XI scheme for indexing the content of every file on a computer for instant keyword recall, you should take the advice and blow away those dirty attachments in quarantine.

Details are available at www.xi.com.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at: jcoates@tribune.com or via snail mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60610. Questions answered only through this column. Add your point of view at www.chicagotribune.com/askjim.

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

INDEXES											
52-week		Low		Last		Net		YTD		52-week	
High	Low	Name		Last		Chg		Chg		% Chg	
10,513.63	9,497.72	Dow Jones Industrial		9,749.99	-7.82	-0.08		-6.73	+1.48		
1,426.26	1,298.88	S&P 500		1,398.11	-24.15	-1.69		-1.71	+0.71		
304.36	243.25	Dow Jones Utilities		310.38	+5.00	+2.27		+1.16	+23.08		
6,798.11	5,812.25	NYSE Composite		6,520.90	-42	-0.61		-1.52	+0.89		
1,313.25	1,014.06	NASDAQ Composite		1,313.25	+1.67	+0.13		+0.13	+0.89		
1,253.82	1,058.82	NASDAQ Composite		1,194.44	-1.10	-0.09		-4.46	+5.01		
1,163.23	1,018.32	S&P 500		1,163.23	+0.32	+0.03		+0.32	+0.89		
618.46	528.13	S&P MidCap		598.04	-1.71	-0.29		-2.16	+9.58		
596.42	503.88	Russell 2000		571.67	-3.89	-0.69		-6.25	+0.03		
11,371.74	9,590.89	US Worldnet 5000		10,768.81	-609	-6.42		-6.42	+7.37		

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Volume	Net Chg	% Chg
Alcatel	346,763	+1.48	+0.42
Altria	271,994	+1.78	+0.44
Amgen	172,817	+0.44	+0.25
Wendover	164,443	+0.13	+0.08
Novartis	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
Johnson & Johnson	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27

AMEX

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Volume	Net Chg	% Chg
Alcatel	346,763	+1.48	+0.42
Altria	271,994	+1.78	+0.44
Amgen	172,817	+0.44	+0.25
Wendover	164,443	+0.13	+0.08
Novartis	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
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Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27

NASDAQ

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Volume	Net Chg	% Chg
Alcatel	346,763	+1.48	+0.42
Altria	271,994	+1.78	+0.44
Amgen	172,817	+0.44	+0.25
Wendover	164,443	+0.13	+0.08
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Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27
Yale	157,998	+0.42	+0.27

EXCHANGE RATES

	Rate
British pound	\$1.3144
Japanese yen (Oct. 26)	104.80
South Korean won (Oct. 27)	1,095.00
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.3144
Canada (Dollar)	1.2211
Denmark (Krone)	5.492
Euro (Euro)	0.6547
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2804
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2804
Hungary (Forint)	193.18
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,680.00
Israel (Shekel)	4.496
Japan (Yen)	104.80
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2436
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.2436
Philippines (Peso)	56.28
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.6334
South Korea (Won)	1,114.20
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2130
Thailand (Baht)	46.24
Taiwan (Dollar)	1.4800

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates, see the U.S. Department of State's website, www.state.gov, for the latest buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies provided for informational purposes only. All figures are in U.S. dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

	Price
Gold	\$425.26
Silver	\$7.23
Platinum	\$912.11
Palladium	\$387.03
Rhodium	\$1,414.14
Iridium	\$1,414.14
Ruthenium	\$1,414.14
Rhenium	\$1,414.14
Osmium	\$1,414.14
Iridium	\$1,414.14
Ruthenium	\$1,414.14
Rhenium	\$1,414.14
Osmium	\$1,414.14

INTEREST RATES

	Rate
Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	4.25
3-month bill	1.87
6-month bill	2.12
1-year bill	2.12
2-year bill	2.12
3-year bill	2.12
5-year bill	2.12
10-year bill	2.12
30-year bill	2.12

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Teach kids to save energy

CBS MarketWatch
NEW YORK — You can cut your heating costs by getting your family into energy-saving habits now.

If you have children, there are some simple — and fun — ways you can teach them about energy conservation, whether it be shutting off lights when they leave a room or helping you "inspect" your home for energy efficiency.

■ Test the seals of your refrigerator and freezer doors, recommends the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Have your child close the door on a dollar bill so that it is half in, half out of the door. If he or she can pull the bill out easily (without opening the door), the seal isn't airtight. You may need to replace the door gaskets.

■ Plant a tree. Strategically placed trees can provide shade in the summer and deflect chilly winter winds, helping you save up to 25 percent on your heating and cooling bills. FEREC recommends considering the tree's growth rate, as well as its eventual branch spread, shape and height. The

tree should be placed close enough to provide shade and deflect wind, but not so close that it blocks sunlight from your windows.

For the computer-savvy child, there are also some educational Web sites with games and activities.

■ Energy Hog at www.energyhog.org. The Web site was founded by Energy Outreach Colorado and the Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation. Kids learn energy-saving tips for every room of the house, and play games to defeat "energy hogs" — fictional half-human, half-pig creatures that exploit wasted energy in your home. There's even a scavenger hunt for kids and parents to learn how a house can become more energy efficient.

■ Kids' Kerner at www.tristate.apogee.net/kids/esap. The Web site is run by Apogee Interactive, an energy-consulting firm. Kids can learn about different kinds of energy and then put their knowledge to use with energy-saving tips and games.

Immigration mess

CO DENVER — Federal officials are investigating the region's top immigration officer, who is allegedly involved with the estranged wife of a man under threat of deportation.

Mario Ortiz, head of immigration in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, is under investigation, said Sharon Rumrisky, spokeswoman for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's Northwest region. She declined to elaborate.

But an attorney for Jon Vaupel, 42, an Australian citizen, said a private investigator has corroborated her client's claims that Vaupel's wife has a relationship with Ortiz. It was unclear what, if any, policy or law Ortiz would be violating with a relationship with the man's estranged wife.

E-Z Pass on through

VA RICHMOND — Virginia is merging its SmartTag automated toll system with the E-Z Pass system used in many other East Coast states. The two systems will become compatible Wednesday, state transportation officials said. SmartTag and E-Z Pass give drivers with prepaid accounts transponders to attach to their cars so a toll can be automatically deducted without stopping.

Skydiving nightmare

IL TAYLORVILLE — A parachute that had opened prematurely became tangled in the tail of the plane the skydiver was jumping from, killing the man and forcing everyone else aboard to jump before the aircraft crashed.

One jumper received minor injuries Sunday in the central Illinois accident, in which the Cessna 206 spiraled to the ground from 10,000 feet.

The accident near Taylorville, about 25 miles southeast of Springfield, involved six members of the Mid-America Sport Parachute Club, according to Taylorville fire Capt. Mike Crews.

The plane crashed a quarter of a mile west of Taylorville Municipal Airport. No one on the ground was hurt.

Chasing bears

MD FROSTBURG — Even experienced hunters are feeling challenged by Maryland's first bear hunt in 51 years.

Baiting is prohibited, so instead of waiting near a pile of fatty doughnuts or lighting up a smoky, sweet-smelling lure, participants in the six-day hunt that starts Monday must go where the bears are.

"You more or less gotta run into 'em," said Clarence Dayhoff Sr., who has killed three bears in Canada and hunted them in Pennsylvania.

Dayhoff, 64, of Hagerstown, planned to hunt with his son on private land in Garrett County. They are among 381 participants in the tightly regulated hunt in the forested mountains of far western Maryland.

The hunt will end when 30 black bears have been culled from a resident population that has grown from a handful in the 1950s to an estimated 500. If fewer than 30 are killed, a second hunt will be held Dec. 6-11.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mines on the ballot

MT HELENA — Mining is such a major part of Montana's legacy that the words "gold and silver" in Spanish are still emblazoned on the state seal.

But mining's golden days are long gone. The industry has diminished over the years amid declining prices and tougher environmental rules, and now accounts for only about 3 percent of Montana's economy.

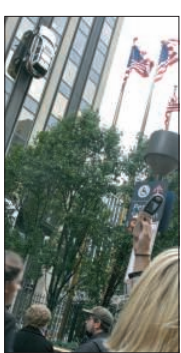
The mining industry hopes a Nov. 2 ballot measure will change that. Voters will decide whether to loosen environmental restrictions on how companies can mine for silver and gold — a proposal that supporters say will send a message to the mining industry that Montana is open for business again.

Critics contend the measure will leave the state vulnerable to catastrophic water pollution.

At issue is whether companies should be allowed to use cyanide in their mining operations. The process involves rinsing piles of crushed rock with cyanide, a potent chemical that percolates through the rock and draws out small deposits of gold or silver.

Cool front off the lake

NY SYRACUSE — A group of community leaders are proposing a plan to cool the city's



Amazing feat

A woman photographs an all-new Jeep Grand Cherokee as it moves up the side of a 30-story skyscraper in New York, to showcase its performance, style and off-road capability.

buildings with water pumped from the bottom of Lake Ontario. The water would be used to remove heat from air-conditioning systems. It would save millions of dollars in energy costs, officials said.

Fast-food shootings

WI WEST MILWAUKEE — Two employees of an Arby's fast-food restaurant were found shot and killed in an apparent robbery, police said Monday.

Police Chief Eugene Oldenburg said the victims were discovered around 11:30 p.m. Sunday by an off-duty assistant manager who had passed by with a co-worker and thought the lighting appeared unusual.

Names of the victims, a 24-year-old woman and a 17-year-old boy, were not immediately released. Autopsies were planned.

"It appears to have been a robbery," Oldenburg said, but he did not disclose details.

No challengers this time

KY LOUISVILLE — Republicans will not post challengers at voting sites in Jefferson County, the state's most populous county, on Election Day. County GOP chairman Jack Richardson IV said he made the decision primarily because the party has arranged to have two Republican election officers at nearly every voting site. Last year, Republican IV said he made the decision primarily because the party has arranged to have two Republican election officers at nearly every voting site. Last year, Republican IV said he made the decision primarily because the party has arranged to have two Republican election officers at nearly every voting site.

Flu shot hold-up

OH COLUMBUS — Some low-income children may have to wait for their flu shot because of questions whether doctors will be reimbursed through Medicaid. The state health department recommends that doctors give the flu shots they've purchased from drug makers to privately insured patients who are considered high risk. Health officials say the state can't guarantee doctors reimbursement through Medicaid because of the national flu vaccine shortage.

No gambling rush

NV RENO — In response to citizen opposition to a string of proposed neighborhood casinos, Reno and Washoe County officials decided to impose a six-month moratorium on hearing applications for unrestricted gambling licenses. Officials want to give their staffs time to develop a regional approach to the issue of neighborhood casinos.

Trade in that boombox

DC WASHINGTON — The city's public works department staged a semiannual electronics recycling event in Rock Creek Park.

Residents of the district, northern Virginia and suburban Maryland brought obsolete computers, televisions and stereo equipment. The event was aimed at preventing the items from being discarded with regular solid waste and sent to landfills.



Sand art Karen Fralich, right, of Toronto, Canada, puts finishing touches to her sand sculpture, "Granny's Kids," during the 17th annual Sand Castle Days on South Padre Island, Texas.



Relaxing retreat Cole Anderson, 20, who spent a few years of his childhood in White Sulphur Springs, Mont., glides beneath the town's namesake waters after spending the night at the Spa Hotel while taking a break from his travels.



Sweet treats Benjamin Smith, 5, left, and his brother Gabriel, 9, work hard for their treats at Colby College's Children's Halloween Extravaganza in Waterville, Maine.



Soggy pumpkins Some of the participants in an Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest show their creations 25 feet beneath the sea's surface in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary about eight miles off Key Largo, Fla. The wacky event was the brainchild of a local dive resort. Participants were judged on design originality, steadiness of carving hand and scuba skills.



Childish fun Jason Rolland, a sophomore from Grand Forks, N.D., pedals to the finish line as Sydnee Vran-na, a sophomore from Redding, Ca., assesses the bent front wheel of her trike during a race as part of homecoming events on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks, N.D.



Figuring it out Students from Meadowview Elementary School make their way through a corn maze in Abingdon, Va.



Tough rides Bikers wait in slow-moving traffic at sunset in Daytona Beach, Fla., during Biketober-fest 2004.

Preparing for the worst

IL WEST CHICAGO — Hundreds of emergency responders participated in a commuter train training drill. Volunteers pretended to be killed or wounded when a bomb exploded on a Metra train. Many emergency personnel were unaware that the explosion was staged until they reached the scene. The National Transportation and Safety Board will evaluate the drill.

Lawyers get the boot

CO DENVER — Twelve district attorneys across the state will be out of a job after November because of term limits. Bob Grant, who has served three terms as Adams County DA, says the departures are bound to hurt the justice system. In January, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled district attorneys are subject to a 1994 constitutional amendment on term limits.

Bad for business

HI HONOLULU — Despite a strong economy, Hawaii is still ranked among the worst states in which to do business.

The Tax Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., has ranked Hawaii last among the 50 states in its annual State Business Tax climate index. Hawaii is 49th in a separate report ranking the public policy climate for small business and entrepreneurship.

The two surveys ignore each state's economic performance.

But Hawaii economists and business owners say the strong economy should not be used as an excuse to relax efforts to improve the business climate.

Hate law too broad

GA ATLANTA — The Georgia Supreme Court unanimously struck down the state's hate crimes law Monday, saying the measure is so broadly worded that it could even be used to prosecute a rabid sports fan for picking on somebody wearing a rival team's cap.

The 7-0 ruling came in the case of a white man and woman convicted of beating two black men in Atlanta.

It was the first application of the 2000 law, which called for up to five extra years in prison for crimes in which the victim is chosen because of "bias or prejudice." Forty-eight states have hate crimes laws, but Georgia's was the only one that did not specify which groups qualified for protection.

Train emergency drill

OH WEST CHICAGO — Hundreds of emergency responders participated in a commuter train training drill. Volunteers pretended to be killed or wounded when a bomb exploded on a Metra train.

Many emergency personnel were unaware that the explosion was staged until they reached the scene.

The National Transportation and Safety Board will evaluate the drill.

Her strikes a plea

PA PHILADELPHIA — New York real estate her Rob-

ert Durst pleaded guilty Monday to two federal gun charges stemming from his time on the lam in a Texas murder case.

Durst allegedly had two 38-caliber revolvers in his rental car when he was charged with shoplifting a sandwich at a grocery store near Bethlehem on Oct. 30, 2001. At the time, he was on the run in the Sept. 28, 2001, killing of Galveston, Texas, neighbor Morris Black.

Durst pleaded guilty to the interstate transportation of a firearm while a felon and while a fugitive.

The plea deal calls for Durst to be sentenced to nine months in prison and two years supervised release.

The judge didn't explicitly accept the sentence outlined in the deal, but he indicated he was likely to. If he seeks to alter the sentence at a sentencing hearing Nov. 29, Durst could withdraw the guilty plea.

Class-size lawsuit

TX AUSTIN — Some teachers groups sued Monday to prohibit Texas Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley from allowing schools to exceed the 22-student class size limit for kindergarten through fourth grade.

The groups, including the Texas Federation of Teachers, are concerned that a recent letter written by Neeley to school district superintendents is an attempt to weaken a state law that limits class sizes to 22 students per teacher in those grades.

The law allows school boards to seek waivers to the 20-year-old law. But the decision to seek a waiver generally must be considered as an item on a school board agenda, giving the public the opportunity to offer input before the board takes a public vote.

Nature preserved

ID MURPHY — Ranchers, local government leaders and environmentalists reached agreement Friday on preserving a half-million acres of wilderness in southwestern Idaho's lonely but spectacular high desert.

There were no dissents in the working group's adoption of the plan that has been under negotiation for the past three years. The Sierra Club and People for the Owyhees abstained.

But the deal could end years of conflict between resource users and land preservationists. U.S. Sen. Michael Crapo believes it can set a precedent for future resolution of public land management disputes not just in Idaho but across the country.

Bad notes

NV LAS VEGAS — A deaf student is suing the Nevada university system, claiming assigned note-takers hurt her chance to get good grades. Leslie Ann Burton seeks in the civil rights lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Las Vegas to remove from her transcripts low marks from the Community College of Southern Nevada and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

The case focuses on federal disability requirements that schools provide reasonable services to help students with disabilities receive the same education as other students.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.mil/>

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2004

AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00 Stanley	Movie *** "Movie by Day" (1994, Adventure) Fankle Janssen, Stephen Strain	Dr. Phil	Horrible Histories	Nightline	Sports	30 Minute Meals	Horrible Histories
9:30 Sawto-Sawto Cat		Oprah Winfrey	Strange Days-Blake Holsey	Nightly Business Report		Food #11	Strange Days-Blake Holsey
10:00 Arthur (E)		Guiding Light	Jocelyn	Herbald With Chris Matthews		Sensational Chic	Jocelyn
10:30 Between the Lions (E)	(142) Movie *** "Jerry Maguire" (1996, Comedy-Drama) Tom Cruise, Cuba Gooding Jr. A crisis of conscience costs a sports agent his job.	General Hospital	Advisory Block	ONN Daybreak		Fashion File	Headline News
11:30 Stanley		Headline News	The Parkers	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	ET News Live	The King of Queens
12:00 Dora the Explorer	The Wiggles' "Boo!"	Judge Judy	Arrested Development		That '70s Show	The Parkers	Arrested Development
12:30 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "The Wings of the Dove" (1997, Drama) Helen Mirren, Alan Bates, Julia Goodwin. A woman's secret love affair with a man who is a spy agent in the 19th century.	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding Carolyn Runko	America's Next Top Model	Good Morning America	Sports	Charm'd "ReWitched"	America's Next Top Model
13:00 Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Las Vegas "You Can't Take It With You"			Aly McBeal "See, Lies and Politics"	Las Vegas "You Can't Take It With You"
14:00 Blue's Clues		Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Channel One	Any Day Now "From This Day On"	Pacific Report
15:00 Funniest Home Videos	(2-52) Movie *** "Hope and Glory" (1989, Comedy-Drama) Sarah Miles, David Hayman, Dennis O'Connor.	Sylvester & Tweety	Pacific Report	The Early Show	Baseball Tonight	ER "Survival of the Fittest"	The Tonight Show
15:30 Full House "13 Candles"		Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	The Tonight Show		NFL Live	Law & Order "Rearround" (Part 2 of 3)	Access Hollywood
16:00 Dragon Tales (E)		Horrible Histories	Late Show	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 5 of 5)		Strange Days-Blake Holsey		FOX News	SportsCenter	Fear Factor	Dennis Miller
17:00 Hey Arnold!	Inside the Actors Studio "Hugh Jackman"	Headline News	Access Hollywood	FOX News	NFL Total Access	Andromeda "Ouroboros"	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
17:30 Rocket Power	Coming Attractions	Headline News	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	The Hot List	Science Frontiers "Alien Hand"	Entertainment Studios.com
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Rugrats	Headline News	The Late Late Show	Totally NASCAR	Baseball Tonight	Friends (Part 1 of 2)	The Hot List
18:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "Salem Witch Trials" (2002, Part 2 of 2) Kristy Alley, Alan Bates. The accused witches are put on trial.	The Parkers	Dennis Miller	FOX News	NFL Total Access	Seinfeld "The Oodles"	Headline News
19:00 Even Stevens		Arrested Development	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	FOX News		Friends (Part 2 of 2)	Headline News
19:30 Kanan & Kai		America's Next Top Model	Las Vegas "You Can't Take It With You"	Inside Politics	The Hot List	Seinfeld "The Oodles"	Headline News
20:00 Gilmore Girls "Love and War and Snow"		Headline News	The Tonight Show	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Seinfeld "The Oodles"	Headline News
21:00 Degraasi: Next	(8-50) Movie *** "The Silence of the Lambs" (1991, Suspense) Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Scott Glenn.	Headline News	The Hot List	Headline News	Around the Horn	Seinfeld "The Oodles"	Headline News
21:30 Degraasi: Next		The Tonight Show	Today	Headline News	Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	Headline News
22:00 The Cosby Show	Movie *** "Dangerous Minds" (1995) Michelle Pfeiffer	Late Show					
22:30 Home Improvement							
23:00 Youched by an Angel "Written in Dust"							
23:30							
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2004							
00:00 Hey Arnold!	(11:00) "Dangerous Minds"	(11:30) Late Show	(11:00) Today	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	(11:00) Today
00:30 Rocket Power	(141) Movie *** "Conan the Barbarian" (1982, Fantasy) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Earl Jones.	Access Hollywood	4 Ours	NBC Nightly News		Fear Factor	4 Ours
01:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		ESPN News	MLB Baseball World Series Game 4 - Teams TBA. (Live)	ABC World News Tonight	Sports		
1:30 Rugrats		Totally NASCAR		CBS Evening News			
2:00 Even Stevens		Headline News	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Andromeda "Ouroboros"	MLB Baseball World Series Game 4 - Teams TBA. (Live)
2:30 Kanan & Kai	Coming Attractions	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Andromeda "Ouroboros"	Disruptions in space and time wreak havoc with the Andromeda crew.
3:00 Gilmore Girls "Love and War and Snow"	Movie *** "Salem Witch Trials" (2002, Part 2 of 2) Kristy Alley, Alan Bates. The accused witches are put on trial.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Sports	Friends (Part 1 of 2)	
4:00 Degraasi: Next		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Seinfeld "The Oodles"	
4:30 Degraasi: Next		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Breathingspace Yoga	NBC Nightly News
5:00 Seams Street (E)	(4-50) Movie *** "The Silence of the Lambs" (1991, Suspense) Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Scott Glenn.	Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Carbon Workout	Judge Judy
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		Body Shaping	Access Hollywood
6:00 Blue's Clues		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Baseball Tonight	Typical Mary Ellen	Guiding Light
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)	Inside the Actors Studio "Hugh Jackman"	Seams Street (E)	General Hospital	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NFL Total Access	The View	
7:30 Bob the Builder	Coming Attractions	Play With Me Sesame	80 Minutes	ET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	General Hospital
8:00 The Wiggles	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	60 Minutes	Twisty Smiley		The Weekenders (E)	Aashli Real Monsters
8:30 Dora the Explorer	Movie *** "The Boys of St. Vincent" (1992, Drama) Part 1 of 2. Henry Czerny.	Dr. Phil	Yu-Gi-Oh! Shadow Game.	Nightly Business Report		30 Minute Meals	Yu-Gi-Oh! Shadow Game
9:00 Stanley		Oprah Winfrey	In the Mix	Herbald With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	Jocelyn
9:30 Sawto-Sawto Cat	(142) Movie *** "National Lampoon's European Vacation" (1985, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo.	Guiding Light	Headline News	Headline News		Style Star	Headline News
10:00 Arthur D.W. wants a pet deer		General Hospital	Advisory Block	Headline News		ET News Live	ESPNews
10:30 Between the Lions (E)		Judge Judy	Everybody Loves Raymond	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Pacific Report
11:00 Sawto-Sawto Cat		Headline News	Will & Grace		That '70s Show	Everybody Loves Raymond	Will & Grace
11:30 Stanley		Headline News	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	Sports	Charm'd "Sin Francisco"	The Bachelor
12:00 Dora the Explorer		Headline News	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Coming of Rage"	Headline News		Aly McBeal	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Coming of Rage"
12:30 The Wiggles	Coming Attractions	Headline News	Pacific Report	Headline News		Any Day Now "Hey Ligi"	The Tonight Show
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Parenothood" (1989, Comedy-Drama) Steve Martin, Mary Steenburgen. A family experiences the pressures of raising children.	Headline News	The Tonight Show	Channel One	Baseball Tonight	ER "April Showers"	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Headline News	The Early Show	Totally NASCAR	Law & Order "Showtime" (Part 3 of 3)	Access Hollywood
14:00 Blue's Clues "Blue's ABCs"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
15:30 Full House "13 Candles"	(216) Movie *** "Ghostbusters II" (1989, Comedy) Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
16:00 Pokemon "I Polloved Ya So!"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! "Alternately"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
17:00 Hey Arnold!	Screen Play	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
17:30 Rocket Power	Ebert-Movies	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
18:30 Rugrats	Movie *** "The Sixth Sense" (1999) Bruce Willis. A child psychologist counsels a boy who can see dead people.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
19:00 That's So Raven		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
19:30 All That		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
20:00 7th Heaven "Peer Pressure"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
21:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(302) Movie *** "Star Trek: Insurrection" (1998, Science Fiction) Patrick Stewart.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
22:00 The Cosby Show		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
22:30 Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
23:00 Youched by an Angel "Secret Service"	Movie *** "Bull Durham" (1988) Kevin Costner.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
23:30		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show

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FACES

Farina back in the spotlight

Actor Dennis Farina's luck is beginning to turn around.

The former Chicago police officer hadn't appeared in any major projects for some time, and then was forced to withdraw from "Collateral," the thriller starring Tom Cruise, after a car accident.



Farina

"He was starting to doubt that there was going to be anything really worthwhile on the horizon," Chuck Adamson, a friend and retired Chicago police sergeant told The New York Times in Sunday editions.

Then, Farina was recruited to join the cast of "Law & Order," after longtime fixture Jerry Orbach announced he was leaving to join a spinoff.

Farina says he was already a fan of the show and liked the emphasis on the crime stories rather than the characters' personal lives. He also was not worried about competition from other crime shows like "CSI."

"I just think 'Law & Order' is the gold standard," he told The Times. "History is going to show that it's probably one of the best series of shows that has been on television."

Muscle Beach founder turns 90

Jack LaLanne keeps going and going, and so do the parties celebrating his 90th birthday.

Nearly a month after the fitness guru turned 90, friends gathered to honor him near the Muscle Beach, where his bodybuilding colleagues made famous in the 1940s.

"I'm so flattered and honored," LaLanne said before a luncheon began at the Hotel Casa Del Mar. "Who the heck am I? I'm just a guy trying to help people."

LaLanne later became a household name by hosting a television exercise show that ran from 1951-85, and by performing outrageous feats such as towing boats while swimming across Long Beach Harbor handcuffed.

LaLanne, who was dressed in a tight, striped suit that revealed his lean, lithe physique, said he celebrated by traveling to France to visit his parents' birthplace and bought himself a Mercedes convertible.

"You've got to work at living because doing is easy," he said.

Ford looking out for elk

Actor Harrison Ford is drawing the line — right at his property — against state efforts to thin the elk herd.

Elk living near Ford's ranch belong to the larger Fall Creek Herd, which numbers 5,100, exceeding the state's population objective of 4,400 animals.

Ford has created a private elk refuge of sorts with elk summering on his property in South Park.

"[Ford] doesn't want any hunting to take place on his property," said John Kelly, who manages the ranch for the actor.

"He told me that if I caught any one to turn them in."



Ford

Royal teases his tongue at food festival

Even in the land of cheese and pasta, Prince Charles couldn't keep away from the traditional British specialties: bacon, pudding and orange marmalade.

At an international food fair in the northwest Italian city of Torino, the prince tasted local products, like Italian cheeses and olives, but focused on cuisine from back home, Italy's Apocn news agency reported.

The Salone del Gusto (Hall of Flavor) event was organized by the "Slow Food" movement, which seeks to preserve culinary traditions in the age of fast food. In a speech, Charles, a longtime advocate of organic farming, expressed his concerns about genetically modified foods.

Stories and photos from wire services



Photographers zero in on the stars of the film "Alfie," Jude Law and girlfriend Sienna Miller, as they arrive for the film's Oct. 14 premiere in London. "Alfie" is one of six films Law will appear in over a four-month period.

Law steals the spotlight

Active actor appears in six films over four months

BY ALONA WARTOFSTKY

The Washington Post

Jude Law currently stars as a dashing pilot in the stylized toro adventure "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow."

The British actor is also in David O. Russell's philosophical comedy "I (Heart) Huckabees."

Then there's "Alfie," opening Nov. 5, a remake of the 1966 Michael Caine classic.

In early December, Law will appear in "Closer," a film adaptation of Patrick Marber's dark play directed by Mike Nichols.

Before the year is out, Law will also serve as narrator of "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" and make a cameo in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator," portraying Errol Flynn.

Over four months, audiences will encounter Law in six films. Law worries about overexposure.

"I can be incredibly optimistic or I can be incredibly cynical," he says. "The cynic in me says ... I spent two years making these. I chose them all because they were so different ... And now they're being lumped together and compared, and some would be overlooked because people would just be, 'Oh, [expletive] Jude Law again.'"

"But the optimist in me thinks, well ... at least it's all over by Christmas."

His ubiquity this fall re-emphasizes what last year's Oscar-nominated turn in "Cold Mountain" made clear: Law, 31, has arrived as a major star.

"Jude happens to be one of the most gifted actors working today," says "Sky Captain" director Kerry Conran. "With every character he plays, he becomes someone different ... You'll never see Jude the same way in any film he does ... That's not something that's easy to do, but he makes it seem effortless."

"Huckabees" director Russell says he cast Law as creepy corporate climber Brad Stand because the role allowed the actor to turn his status as a "golden icon" inside out. "He's more of an artist than he is a movie star," says Russell.

"Huckabees" director Russell says he cast Law as creepy corporate climber Brad Stand because the role allowed the actor to turn his status as a "golden icon" inside out. "He's more of an artist than he is a movie star," says Russell.

In "Huckabees," Brad Stand repeatedly tells the same self-aggrandizing anecdote. Eventually he comes to understand how repulsive that can be, and when he's pressured to tell it one more time during an important meeting, he becomes so disgusted with himself that he vomits into his

hands. "That was an afterthought — what if he was so nauseated by telling the same story again and again that he threw up?" says Russell.

Russell says they filmed three takes, all of which he hopes to include on the film's DVD release. "Jude laughed hysterically and said, 'You will never use that. I'll give you \$100 if you ever use it.' He owes me \$100 now."

Taking on Alfie Elkins — the working-class lothario whose conscience starts to catch up with him — is a risk of sorts, partly because the role requires Alfie to speak directly to the camera, and because the role has long been associated with Caine.

"He tries to seduce you, the audience," says Law of the character, "and then eventually he can't help but show the cracks, really. Because he's invited you in, you see them as he sees them."

"I (Heart) Huckabees" presented its own difficulties, says Law — "Giving [the director] what he wanted. Opening up enough, feeling free enough, brave enough to dive in and bare your heart, your soul ... for me, playing a character who had to be believable but also utterly fake."

In Britain, Law is plagued by nosy reporters and paparazzi. First there was his 1997 marriage to actress Sadie Frost. Then there was their divorce, which involved tabloid tales of postnatal depression (hers), a suicide attempt (his) and an alleged affair with "Cold Mountain" love interest Nicole Kidman (his), as well as domestic disturbances requiring police intervention. There was a 2002 incident in which Law and Frost's toddler daughter — youngest of their three children together — ate part of an ecstasy tablet she found on the floor at a children's party. All of this led to a kind of aggressive hounding Law characterizes with one word: "Horrible."

This brings us to the Windshield Story. The climactic moment of "Alfie" occurs when he begins to realize how badly he has hurt people. Filled with anguish, he smashes his fist through his car's windshield.

"That's not a special effect," says director Charles Shyer. "Jude really broke the window with his fist."

The director had watched the media beseege Law and his new girlfriend, actress Sienna Miller, who plays one of Alfie's conquests.

"I wanted him to have the emotion, and I just said to him, 'The windshield is the paparazzi,'" recalls Shyer. "He just hit it so [expletive] hard I thought he had broken his wrist. I was so scared. I said, 'what have I done?' The Windshield Story has already appeared in articles, but Law has little patience for it. "Charles, of course he thought." — Law adopts an American accent — "I, I said paparazzi, and he really hit it." The actor makes a de-pressive sound. "I let all hell break loose and I smashed the windshield because it was what was required."

Horoscope

A lunar eclipse is featured during this full moon in Taurus. Taurus rules the appetite and luxury, and during this transit, you may feel insatiable — especially when it comes to expensive, quality indulgences.

The best way to keep yourself from going overboard is not to place yourself in dangerous situations. **TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 27).** The answers are there for you this year. All you have to do is ask the right questions! Your focus on self-improvement pays off beautifully, and by the end of next month, you're filled with pride in your accomplishments. New people in your life energize your work situation. A financial breakthrough in February is well deserved.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It will take guts to speak up to the person who has the power to help you. You're proposing a new standard, after all, instead of falling into the line that's already been established. But rewards go to the brave.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you've gotten just about everything you asked for the last week, it very well may be that you're still not happy. It's time to raise the stakes again.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You dream about who the perfect person might be for you and what qualities that person may possess, but when it comes to real life, it's more about chemistry and compatible lifestyles than anything else. Have faith in your intuition.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are doomsayers all around you, but don't believe a word of what they say, especially when the subject is the economy. Your qualifications make you perfect for a position that's just opening up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your charisma makes you popular, and

you take the responsibility seriously. You've got a healing gift. Your special "medicine" is the optimistic force of your spirit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some would say you're lucky, but you don't sit around wishing until one day — poof! You use cause and effect instead, adding A and B to get C.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your brainchild is growing up and starting to walk on its own. Help it out by finding more places where it will be useful, more people who need it and more opportunities to showcase it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Suddenly, it's very important to get real with your relationships. Don't worry about the future, but center yourself and ask the hard questions — like what is it you were expecting of the relationship when you got in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're dreaming big and can't be bothered with anything that distracts you from what you really want. Romantic complications are becoming less complicated due to your decisive attitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Be careful whose heart you play with. A formerly harmless flirtation could turn into something more. You could easily get sucked into a love triangle. Maybe it's best to shift your attention from love to career.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Each person has a unique relationship with money. Some are spenders, some are savers, and you're an investor. You apportion some of your hard-earned cash into risky but scientific propositions and watch it double.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're being pulled in multiple directions. People think they know what's best for you, but they don't know you nearly as well as they think they do. You have to decide what would bring you the most enjoyment.

Joyce Jillson



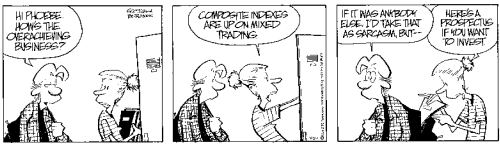
Calvin and Hobbes



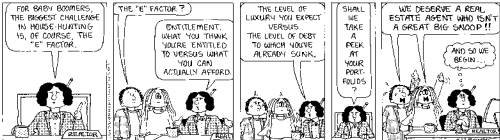
Lump Start



Zits



Cathy



Lois



le Bailey



over



Worse



To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillson and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillson passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillson and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be re-named "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

Peanuts



14721 United Farming Community Inc

nancy.com

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



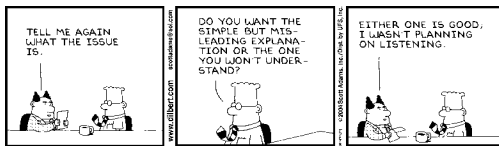
Spider Man



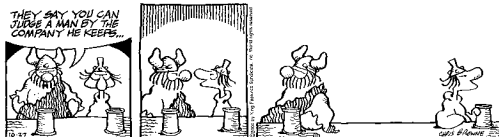
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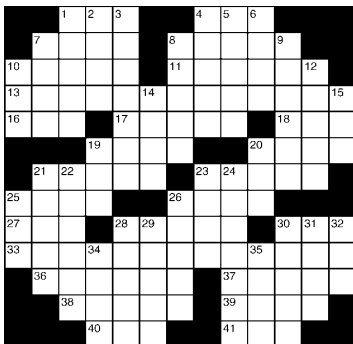
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 "60 Minutes"
- 4 Hansom, e.g.
- 7 Tend tears
- 8 Gibbs or
- 10 Sound portion
- 11 Colored ring
- 13 Remark re
- 16 Pub potation
- 17 Uses the USPS
- 18 "Star Wars" abbr.
- 19 Noun classification (abbr.)
- 20 Manages, with "out"
- 21 Exhausted
- 23 Extensive
- 25 Rodents do it
- 26 Acute
- 27 DDE

Down

- 1 Frame-work
- 2 Soft cheese
- 3 He looks
- 4 Yule melody
- 5 Precincts
- 6 Online diary
- 7 Hamilton-Burr
- 8 Legerdmain
- 9 "The Last Frontier"
- 10 "Eureka!"
- 12 Lent a hand
- 14 It's right on the map
- 15 Serbian city
- 19 Kitten's comment

- 20 A billion years
- 21 Villain's look
- 22 Affixes wallpaper
- 23 Tempo
- 24 Changed the title
- 25 Guy's companion
- 26 Country singer
- 27 Toby
- 28 Loathing
- 29 Expenses
- 30 Piquant
- 31 Perukes
- 32 Lennon's lady
- 34 — gin fizz
- 35 Infatuated

Answer to Previous Puzzle

MEOW	ABC	SAVE
ULNA	PEA	AGED
SLED	HARD	CORE
HARDH	IT	ORGAN
LID	JOE	
AGNES	HARDING	
SOO	JOG	TEA
HARDT	OP	POSES
OWN	CAD	
CREDO	HARDHAT	
HARDSHIP	IOWA	
OGRE	ADO	TBAR
USSR	MEN	YOYO

10-27

CRYPTOQUIP

U ' H A M N L L U L R Y L
T I D N M U L R T Y H D I W U L R
E D V F W D N E F . U V D N M M F

WYAD U ZNL ZNVVF UI YOO.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: If you're in the mall trying different perfumes, I'd call you a shopping scenter.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals N

Dribbling drives neighbors nuts

Dear Abby: My problem is my neighbor's home basketball court. The parents are oblivious to the noise and the noise. My ears are constantly assaulted by the thumping sound and screaming of children that goes along with the game. It's impossible on most days and evenings to sit on my porch and read a book, or in my living room without closing the windows.

Zoning board members: How about outlawing basketball hoops in neighborhoods where there's less than 500 feet between houses? Give us a break.

As taxpayers, we're assessed to provide bigger and better playgrounds and school gyms. That's where basketball hoops belong. Driveways shouldn't supersede the local playground. Please, parents, unless you live on a lot that's an acre or larger, take down that horrid noisemaker and take the kids to the playground.

Dear Abby



Show some consideration for your neighbors.
— **Fractured Ardruum in the Sunbelt**

Dear Fractured: Whether or not the sound of children playing is an annoying racket depends on one's perspective. If you are a parent, the sound is music to the ears — and when those days are over, the happy sound will be missed. Sometimes being a good neighbor involves striking a compromise.

Dear Abby: A treasured friend of my mother's — a lady who knew me from birth (I am now 50) — passed away recently.

I was brought up to call her "Auntie." She was closer to me than some of my blood relatives. My children and I adored her. We called her long-distance, sent her flowers on special occasions, and saw her every time she came to town.

Finally it was necessary for

her to go to a nursing home. The last time we went to visit her, the nurses said, "Oh, didn't you know? She passed away a month ago!" Her only son lives far away. He never bothered to call and notify us.

Abby, won't you please remind your readers again to call dear friends about a death in the family? This is inexcusable. We are

— **Mourning in Tacoma, Wash.**

Dear Mourning: Your problem is more common than you think. Often when there's a death in the family, a close friend will assume the sad task of phoning the people in the deceased's address book to notify them. Obviously, this was not done on the occasion of Auntie's death — and your letter poignantly illustrates the pain that can be caused by the unfortunate oversight.

Please give Auntie's son the benefit of the doubt.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email to Abby on the internet at <http://www.usexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arigoni

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NISHY

RETEB

NIANIZ

TAPECK

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www.jumble.com

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THE LAST THING A TEENAGER WANTS TO BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles:

GIANT CHOKE DITHER JUMPER

Answer: What the tired laborer said when he drilled into the thick wall — I'M "THROUGH"

Dad's disorder concerns daughter

Dear Annie: I'm 13, and my parents divorced when I was 6. My mom has primary custody, but I see my dad every week. Mom was the one who wanted the divorce, and I don't think Dad has fully recovered from it yet.

When I was younger, I was Daddy's little girl. Now I'm beginning to see why my mom divorced him. He's a major pack rat, and he suffers from depression. I found his antidepressant pills in the bathroom when I was 11. I know he has not taken his medicine in at least two years, and his mood swings can be scary. Recently, Dad yelled at me for a minor thing, but he also raised his arms in the air, and I was really afraid he might hit me. Later the same day, he was in a much better mood and really sorry about his actions. He has good days and bad, but the bad days seem to be getting more frequent.

I hope I'm not overreacting, but I'm wondering if I should ask Mom to talk to her lawyer about changing the custody set-up.

Annie's Mailbox



Please tell me what to do. I need to get away from him before I lose my mind.

— **Need Options in Oregon**

Dear Need Options: Don't worry about the custody agreement.

You should discuss your father's depression with your mother and ask her to help. This burden should not be falling on your young shoulders.

If Dad needs to be on medication and isn't taking it, your mother and his doctor should be aware of the situation.

Dear Annie: My boyfriend of two years has a cat, "Ozy," that he absolutely adores. The problem is that I am highly allergic to animal dander. I get headaches, my eyes water and itch, and my nose runs. I can tolerate it if I take allergy pills and stay away from the parts of the house where the cat is allowed.

Although I have told my boyfriend about my allergy, he still

allows the cat to sleep in his bed, even when I am there. He particularly likes to place the cat on my lap or give him to me to hold.

I love this guy and don't want to give him ultimatums, but something has to be done.

— **Sneezing in Phoenix**

Dear Phoenix: We're going to assume your boyfriend is under the mistaken impression that if you are exposed to the cat on a regular basis, you will get over your allergic reaction. It doesn't quite work that way. Although allergy shots might desensitize you to a certain degree, it is not possible to eliminate the reaction altogether. You should explain this to him, and if possible, have your doctor present him with some literature on the subject. Of course, if your boyfriend simply enjoys subjecting you to this particular torment, you might want to scratch him off your list.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@familymag.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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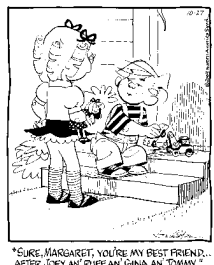
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GRAFFITI



Dennis the Menace



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The Far Side



Non Sequitur



*SURE, MARGARET, YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND... AFTER JOEY AN' RUFF AN' GINA AN' TOMMY.

"Well, every dog has his day."

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**CLIN 0001AB-PT
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• Provide daily rotation of all server backup tapes.
• On-site computer support for PC desktops and workstations. Provide assistance to Network engineers for server, or network infrastructure services that are coordinated with the DoDDEU Customer Support Service Center (CSCS).
• All services in this position will be on a per-call basis paid from Troubleshoot Tickets issued by the DoDDEU-CSCS.
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Application Program Analyst

CLIN: 0001AH General Job Description

• Assist functions in identifying software application requirements that will support business processes. • Analyze user application requirements for the software development team. • Provide Level I support for corporate and educational software applications to include common off the shelf (COTS) or modified COTS. • Coordinate software implementation schedules with technical project managers and customer community. • Provide software application support to DoDDEU business units, such as Resource Management Office, Logistics, Human Resources Office, Procurement, and Education.

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Database Administrator

CLIN: 0001AE General Job Description

• Provide and maintain databases in an enterprise architecture and/or other environment. • Typical services include management of user accounts, access permissions, passwords, security controls, and storage limitations. • Resolve reported database problems, perform database backups and restore data when needed, install, configure and maintain database software, install database software patches, generate and maintain system documentation. **Salary range between \$6,148 - \$7,684 per month / This position is located in the DoDDEU Europe HQ, IT Division office.**

Network Administrator

CLIN: 0001AD General Job Description

• Provide network infrastructure support for the DoDDEU network. • Typical services include management of firewalls, Internet filters, routers, switches, Intrusion Detection systems, VPN resources, access control devices, and telecommunication interface circuits. • Services also include resolution of reported issues, coordination of circuit install and uninstall requests, assistance with LAN/WAN equipment upgrades, data traffic monitoring, and performance enhancements. • Network Administrators are responsible for the overall security posture of the network and are required to maintain thorough documentation. • They will ensure that LAN/WAN systems are secure and conform to DoD, DoDSEA and DoDDEU standards. • Network Administrators may also be asked to provide management with consultation and recommendations for complex technical projects. **Salary range between \$5,520 - \$6,923 per month/ This position is located in the DoDDEU Europe HQ, IT Division office.**

Software Systems Development

CLIN: 0001AF General Job Description

• Develop software modules and provide reports based on system requirements and specifications. • Typical services include: perform structural and functional quality assurance testing of DoDDEU systems, document developed procedures, provide implementation instructions in accordance with DoDSEA standards, and resolve software development issues. • Provide Level II support for application related issues on in house developed applications. • Assume software systems are fully integrated and functional with the DoDDEU infrastructure. **Salary range between \$5,478 - \$6,450 per month / This position is located in the DoDDEU Europe HQ, IT Division office.**

Customer Support Help Desk

CLIN: 0001AA General Job Description

• Maintain and operate a central Customer Support Service Center (CSCS) to coordinate all service level support. • Provide level I support to users and initial troubleshooting of workstation problems using remote desktop management tools, email and telephone communication to resolve workstation problems. • Provide level II software support for corporate and educational applications to include common off the shelf (COTS) or modified COTS. • Provide statistical reports from the CSCS database to DoDDEU management for analysis and planning. **Hourly rate between \$23.20 and \$27.60 / This is a full-time, located in the DoDDEU Europe HQ, IT Division office.**

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Spurrier believed to top Florida's list of candidates

BY MARK LONG

The Associated Press

GAINEVILLE, Fla. — Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley should have an easier time with this coaching search.

Dorner Bronco coach Mike Shanahan and Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops turned down the job in 2002, neither one wanting the dubious task of replacing Steve Spurrier.

It could be much different now. Football coach Ron Zook was fired Monday after two-plus years and a stack of embarrassments on and off the field, satisfying a growing groundswell for his ouster that began the day he replaced Spurrier.

Zook will finish the season while Foley and school president Bernie Machen search for a coach.

They might start with Spurrier, who resigned from the NFL's Washington Redskins after two last seasons.

"We will discuss this job with a number of coaches, and obviously if Coach Spurrier is interested, we will sit down with him," Foley said.

Spurrier, playing in a charity golf event near Orlando, Fla., avoided questions about his interest in returning to the Gators.

"I'll talk about that another time," he said. "I don't think there's anything that I can say that's really appropriate at this time."

Foley said he won't discuss the opening with employed coaches until after the season.

If Spurrier doesn't return, Stoops and Utah coach Urban Meyer might be possibilities. Stoops was Spurrier's defensive coordinator for three seasons at Florida (1996-98) before leaving for Norman.

"My job is at Oklahoma and I've always felt privileged to coach here," Stoops said. "That's where my full concentration and commitment are."

Machen hired Meyer at Utah following the 2002 season, and Meyer has the Utes poised for a Bowl Championship Series berth. "If he has my name mentioned, it's been mentioned a million other times, too," Meyer said. "I have no comment."

Louisville coach Bobby Petrino also could be in the mix.

"You wish it wouldn't come up," Petrino said. "That way I'm going to have to handle it. I'm not going to address any speculation on any other jobs. I'm going to put all our focus and attention on Memphis and trying to win the conference championship."

Either of them would seemingly be more likely to take the job now, especially after Zook's tumultuous tenure.

The Gators are 20-13 under Zook with four games left. Zook's latest debacle, a 38-31 loss to Mississippi State, sealed his fate and brought jubilation among those in Gator Nation who turned www.firezook.com into their Internet home page.

Many of them saw it coming from the start, saying Zook was in over his head, had never been a head coach and wasn't composed enough to manage a game from the sideline. Almost all those concerns quickly became reality.

"When the situation starts getting hairy, it's hard sometimes to push it back up," Foley said. "I think the situation got out of control, even for him."

Just weeks before the Mississippi State loss, reports surfaced that



Ron Zook, who will finish the season as Florida's football coach, has a 20-13 record as the head coach of the Gators.

Zook had a heated confrontation with fraternity members on campus last month. Zook initially downplayed his role, saying he went there to defuse the situation, but Foley later acknowledged that Zook yelled at students and called the behavior "unacceptable."

Foley said the same thing about the mounting losses — many of them late collapses.

The Gators blew fourth-quarter leads against Tennessee and LSU this season, and did the same against Miami, Mississippi and Florida State last year. There also were two near meltdowns against Arkansas.

There were other debacles, too, including consecutive Outback Bowl losses to Michigan and Iowa — games in which Florida looked unprepared at times.

Zook showed resiliency through it all. He led the Gators to four straight wins in 2002 and five in a row last season — after it looked like they might finish with losing records. He also has two wins over rival Georgia, the Gators' opponent on Saturday.

Foley even extended Zook's contract after last season, saying he felt the program was on the right track.

The latest problems, however, were too much to overcome.

"In the final analysis, it was apparent to me that something's not working here," Foley said. "I know that's been a nebulous, but it's the truth. It's hard to put a finger on it exactly, but it certainly just didn't appear to be working as we all envisioned."

Sooners pull rank, thanks to computers

BY CHRIS DUFRESNE

Los Angeles Times

Order (for now) has been restored in the Bowl Championship Series standings, and that order is USC, Oklahoma and Miami.

Last week's first release of the BCS standings caused a mini-uproar when Miami, ranked No. 4 in the media and coaches' polls, opened in second position ahead of Oklahoma, No. 2 in both human polls.

This week's standings more accurately reflect popular sentiment — unless you're from Coral Gables, Fla.

USC retained its firm grip on the overall lead with a BCS average of 984.3, although the Trojans did slip from No. 1 to No. 2 in the computer index.

Oklahoma is No. 2 at 932.5, followed by Miami at 923.9.

The top two teams in the final BCS standings will play for the BCS national championship in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4.

Reaction from Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops was predictable.

"It's really no different than what I said last week," Stoops said in a released statement. "It just doesn't matter much yet. We have to play Oklahoma State this week. That's the only thing we're focused on."

BCS standings											
Oct. 25, 2004											
	AP	USA	ESPN	Computer	BCS	AP	USA	ESPN	Computer	BCS	Pv
1. Miami	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2. Oklahoma	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3. USC	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4. Miami	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5. Florida State	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6. Wisconsin	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7. Texas	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8. Georgia	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9. California	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
10. Texas A&M	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
11. Michigan	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
12. Boise State	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
13. Texas Tech	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
14. Arizona State	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14

Team percentages are derived by dividing a team's points per game by a maximum 1625 possible points in the AP Poll and 1525 possible points in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll. Six computer rankings calculated in inverse points order (25 for No. 1, 24 for No. 2, etc.) are used to determine the overall computer component. The best and worst ranking for each team is dropped, and the remaining four are added and divided by 100 (the maximum possible points) to produce a Computer Rankings Percentage. The BCS Average is calculated by averaging the percent totals of the Associated Press, USA Today/ESPN Coaches and Computer polls.

did if they finished sixth or higher in the final BCS standings.

Utah is seeking to become the first team from outside the major-conference power structure to earn a bid to a BCS bowl game — Rose, Sugar, Fiesta or Orange.

For geographical reasons, Utah probably would end up in the Fiesta Bowl, especially if that bowl is dropped and the "New Year" tie-in, Oklahoma, to the Orange Bowl.

There also is a scenario in which Utah could end up in Pasadena should the Rose Bowl lose its status to the national-title game and another Pac-10 team is not available.

For Utah, though, holding on to the No. 6 spot is no sure thing.

The Utes boast a powerful No. 5 computer ranking. This week, thanks to victories against BCS-conference schools Texas A&M, Arizona and North Carolina. That computer number could weaken, though, as the Utes finish the season against weaker opponents from the Mountain West Conference.

Oklahoma was able to jump

ahead of Miami this week because the Sooners' computer ranking improved from No. 5 to No. 4. Miami is ranked No. 1 in the computers but No. 4 in the AP poll.

Utah's coordinator, Kevin Weiberg, predicted last week the system would correct itself. All the dry-run models the BCS ran indicated it would be extremely difficult for a team ranked No. 2 in both polls to finish No. 3 in the BCS standings.

It would require the No. 2 team to have a computer ranking of No. 5 or worse.

That's exactly what happened last week when Oklahoma opened fifth in the computers.

Other BCS moves: No. 18 to No. 15, while Texas El Paso, led by first-year coach Mike Price, made a surprise appearance at No. 24.

Miners (5-2) need one more victory to match their win total for the previous three seasons combined.

Northwestern coach checks into hospital

The Associated Press

EVANSTON, Ill. — Northwestern coach Randy Walker has an inflammation of the heart muscle

and was hospitalized for a second day Tuesday.

He's feeling much better today, resting comfortably," spokesman Mike Wolf said. He said Walker could be released as early as Wednesday.

Walker checked himself into Evanston Northwestern Hospital on Monday after experiencing chest pains before his weekly news conference. The 50-year-old Walker doesn't have a history of heart problems, and Wolf said tests showed his heart is fine.

Wolf said Walker will decide later this week whether he will be on the sideline for Saturday's game against No. 17 Purdue.

Separated shoulder sidelines Florida State RB Washington

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State tailback Leon Washington will miss at least one game with a separated right shoulder, but could be out longer.

Washington will be out "probably a couple, looking at it optimistically," coach Bobby Bowden said Monday.

Washington, the team's leading rusher with 689 yards and a 98.4-yard average, separated the shoulder during the fifth-ranked Seminoles' 20-17 win Saturday over Wake Forest.

Sophomore Lorenzo Booker, who has split carries nearly 50-50 with Washington and averages

just over 80 yards, will become the Seminoles' featured back.

The Seminoles play at Maryland on Saturday.

Colorado coach cites disparity in Big 12

DES MOINES, Iowa — If Gary Barnett is right, it's no wonder the South has been so dominant in Big 12 football.

While some shrug it off as merely the cyclical nature of the sport, the Colorado coach thinks teams in the South have a head start.

"I don't think there's any question the resources, the traditions of those programs are such that it pays off," Barnett said Monday. "We all go to Texas to recruit. The resources and facilities there are second to none in the country, so they have all of that."

Teams from the South have won 11 of the 14 games between the divisions, with Baylor having four and three losses. All of the Big 12 teams in the Top 25 are from the South — Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M and Oklahoma State.

North teams have won four of the eight Big 12 championship games, but the best record in that division now is the 2-2 mark shared by Missouri and Nebraska.

In the South, Oklahoma and Texas A&M are 4-0, while Oklahoma State and Texas are 3-1.

Barnett did say he thought several other factors were at work in the disparity. He said his program will always go in cycles and Nebraska is adjusting to new coach Bill Callahan and a different offensive coordinator.

"But I think there is a natural sort of advantage that exists in the South," Barnett said.



Jockey Jerry Bailey gives a thumbs-up after winning the Fountain of Youth Stakes aboard Red Footnotes in February. Bailey will be aboard six horses in the eight-race Breeders' Cup on Saturday.

Breeders' Cup has name recognition

BY BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — If D. Wayne Lukas, Bob Baffert, Bobby Frankel, Jerry Bailey and Pat Day are at the same track on the same day, it must be the Breeders' Cup.

Texas is hosting horse racing's richest day for the first time, and some of the sport's biggest names are taking aim at eight races worth \$14 million. Some, such as Baffert, are less loaded than in other years.

The white-haired trainer has one contender, Roman Ruler in the Juvenile. Baffert is usually busy saddling many entries, although his 40 starters have produced just three wins, including Vindication in the 2002 Juvenile.

Roman Ruler has three career victories and just missed a fourth when he was beaten by a neck at Del Mar in September.

"Everything is very good," Baffert said Monday. "He's ready."

Lukas will saddle Azeri in either the Distaff or the Classic. Stellar Jayne in the Distaff, and Consolador in the Juvenile. The 69-year-old trainer has a record 140 Breeders' Cup starters, with 17 victories and more than \$18 million in earnings.

The Juvenile has produced Lukas' greatest success, with five winners, but none since Boston Harbor in 1996 at Woodbine.

Azeri will be the favorite in the Distaff if she stays in the race instead of the Classic. She won the Distaff in 2002 on her way to being selected horse of the year. She struggled last year, but won the Spinster Stakes this month at Keeneland and beat Sightseeker at Saratoga this summer.

Hall of Fame trainer Allen Jerkins, who is based at Belmont Park, has two chances to end his 90th Breeders' Cup winless streak. He'll run Bowman's Band in the Classic and Society Selection in the Distaff.

Only six of the 100 horses entered in the Breeders' Cup have run at Lone Star Park, so many owners, trainers, jockeys and horses will be competing here for the first time Saturday.

Bowman's Band, Society Selection and other horses aren't used to the recent hot, humid weather in Texas after coming from chilly New York. So Jerkins plans to change the weather.

Funny Dice, last year's Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner, will arrive at Lone Star on Wednesday. A year ago, he beat only one horse in the Classic at Santa Anita, where temperatures were nearly 100 degrees and wildfires created a smoky environment. Saturday's forecast is for temperatures in the high 70s.

"That's still a little hot, but he'll deal with it," said Robin Smullen, Funny Dice's assistant trainer.

Dale Romans isn't taking any chances. He arrived from Churchill Downs with Classic contender Roses in May and Turf entrant Kitten's Joy on Oct. 19. They will be his first starters in the event.

"It was hot and we wanted to get used to the weather," he said. "I'm glad we got here early because they have settled in nicely."

A year after winning a record four Breeders' Cup races, Richard Mandella is back with only one chance. Pleasantly Perfect may try to become the second horse to win the \$4 million Classic twice in a row.

"He's as good or better than he's ever been," Mandella said. "In the last year, he's gotten smarter and better in his racing."

Bailey, who has a record 14 victories and more than \$17 million in Breeders' Cup earnings, will be busy Saturday. He'll ride Pleasantly Perfect and defending champion Six Furlongs in the Mile.

He'll also be aboard Storm Flag Flying in the Distaff, Balletto in the Juvenile Fillies, Kela in the Sprint, and Aubonne in the Filly & Mare Turf.

Florida's other fall guy

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

Maybe the biggest problem when Florida hired Ron Zook to replace Steve Spurrier was this: In the minds of all but the most blindly loyal Gators fans, it was never a matter of if, only when Zook would be fired.

It happened Monday, and the way it went down was probably worse than what anyone could have guessed.

A shouting match at a fraternity house. A loss to one of the 10 worst teams in the country. Sure, Spurrier had forgettable moments in his 12 seasons with the Gators, but never anything like this.

After Florida's humiliating 38-31 loss to Mississippi State on Saturday, there was no more getting around the truth that had been bubbling in Gainesville for a long time. Not only have the once-mighty Gators regressed under Zook's 2½-year tenure — most people expected a little setback — they have become something of a laughingstock around the country.

Zook is a good, honest man, and the saddest thing about his failure is that it really isn't all his fault.

As expected, he brought in top-10 signing classes in all three of his seasons, which is exactly why athletic director Jeremy Foley went out on a limb and hired the lifetime assistant back in January 2002.

Zook is a hard worker, a great recruiter, a loyal coach and employee. He just wasn't ready to be a head coach, and it was Foley's refusal to accept that reality that put him in the horrible situation of having to fire his good friend three years later.

"I accept full responsibility for that decision that has not panned out as we all envisioned," Foley said.

It's an article of faith among leaders of big-time college programs that you don't put a first-time head coach in charge of football. And if you do, he needs to have a résumé much more polished than Zook's was.

As much as getting a grasp on managing games, coaches need to learn about the politics, the boosters, the public-relations aspects of being a top guy, and they need to do it at a lower level before they take over one of the top programs in the country. (Can Florida even make that claim anymore?)

Foley ignored conventional wisdom. After Mike Shanahan and Bob Stoops turned down the job, Foley went to "The Zooker," he calls him, and conceded that had Zook turned down the job, there would have been nobody else left on his list.

ND's Brey gets contract extension

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame basketball coach Mike Brey received a two-year contract extension after leading the Irish to three NCAA tournaments in four seasons.

It is the second two-year extension for Brey, who signed a seven-year deal in 2000. The new contract, which was announced Monday, runs through the 2010-11 season.

"Simply speaking, Mike Brey has done a brilliant job leading Notre Dame basketball back to national prominence," athletic director Kevin White said. "Mike represents the perfect Notre Dame fit."

Brey, 45, has an 84-44 record at Notre Dame and led the Irish to 20 wins and NCAA tournament bids in his first three seasons and an NIT berth last season.

Notre Dame and Syracuse are the only Big East teams to post winning conference records each of the past four years.

Brey said he and White began talking about the

Theory, as Foley explained it then, was that signing day was approaching, he needed to get a coach quickly, and there was no time to sift through the backgrounds and baggage of some of the other names flying around at the time — Rick Neuheisel and Jon Gruden, to name a few.

Foley may have been right. The problem, though, came in having a list with only three names.

Zook tried to ignore the constant negativity aimed his way — see firezonook.com — and kept plugging away. The ultimate gripper at a school that got used to having a quick-witted showman leading the way.

The embarrasments came quickly and they were about more than just losing or the incident at the fraternity house.

Days before his first Florida State game, Zook made the bone-headed PR move of placing an unprecedented gag order on his team, even though it was the Gators who were in turmoil at the time. He said it was to keep the Gators focused. They lost 31-14.

A few weeks later, Florida lost to Michigan in the Outback Bowl when Zook called for a receiver to pass to Rex Grossman on a late drive that would have tied the game. It was the college equivalent of turning John Elway into a receiver with 2 minutes left. The pass got intercepted. After the game, Zook made the startling concession that he'd let his assistants talk him into calling the play.

The list goes on, but the results stayed the same. Zook is 20-13 with four games left. Spurrier lost 27 times in 150 games.

"It was a culmination of disappointments — a lot of different things," Foley explained.

Ironically, the timing of the firing may be the best decision Foley has made in regard to Zook's tenure. Zook will coach the rest of the season, and his players — most of them as stubbornly loyal to him as he is to them — will almost surely play hard for him. It would come as no surprise to see the Gators win this weekend against Georgia, which would make Zook 3-0 against Florida's new coach.

But the best thing about the timing is it gives Foley some breathing room to make a good decision. Already, Utah's Urban Meyer is being considered a candidate because he's got a sharp football mind and because Florida's new president came from Utah.

Whether it's Meyer, Stoops or — could it really happen? — an answered "S.O.S." call for the return of Stephen Orr Spurrier, Foley needs to make a long list, interview thoroughly and make the right choice. Because some day, Zook might get another chance. Athletic directors, however, usually only get one do-over on a decision this important.

contract extension in the spring and reached an agreement last week.

"This is a place that you should wind down your coaching career at," Brey said. "Hopefully I'm good enough where they'll let me do that. It's up to me now."

Wisconsin's Wade on indefinite leave of absence

MADISON, Wis. — Boo Wade, expected to compete to be Wisconsin's starting point guard, is taking an indefinite leave of absence from the team. Coach Bo Ryan announced the move Monday, saying Wade needed to "concentrate on some personal issues," and there was no timetable for his return. Ryan didn't give any details.

Wade, a junior, was suspended for two games last season after his ex-girlfriend accused him of choking her during an incident in early February at their apartment.

Wade pleaded no contest in April to two misdemeanor counts in a sex deal. A battery charge was reduced to disorderly conduct. A charge of ball jumping resulted because Wade continued to contact the woman after he was initially charged.



Investigators examine wreckage for clues

Official says Hendrick plane slashed through treetops before crashing

BY CHRIS KAHN
The Associated Press

PATRICK SPRINGS, Va. — Without a flight data record or cockpit voice recorder, investigators were trying to piece together what caused a Hendrick Motors plane to crash by poring over the wreckage, radar data and transcript of chatter between the pilot and air traffic controllers.

National Transportation Safety Board officials said they do not immediately know what caused the Beech 200 King Air to crash Sunday en route from Concord, N.C., to Blue Ridge Airport for a NASCAR race at Martinsville Speedway. Ten people died.

"We're in the data gathering phase of this investigation," the NTSB's Brian Rayner said Monday.

The Hendrick Motorsports plane — carrying family and friends of one of NASCAR's top teams — missed its first landing attempt before it veered off course and smashed into Bull Mountain, investigators said.

The crash killed everyone aboard, including the son, brother and two nieces of team owner Rick Hendrick. Hendrick did not join the flight because he wasn't feeling well, a team spokesman said.

Pilots of at least 20 other planes, most of them carrying sponsors and race fans, decided it was too dangerous to land at Blue Ridge Airport on Sunday, and instead touched down at Danville Regional Airport where landing in bad weather is easier.

Mike Rembold, manager of General Aviation Inc. at the Danville airport, said the

pilots couldn't get into Blue Ridge because of fog.

"They were missing approaches," he said. "They would go down and not see the runway and then go back up. They headed here instead."

Rayner told reporters it looked as if the Hendrick plane slashed through the treetops for about 100 feet before crashing into the southeast face of Bull Mountain. The impact left a crater in the mountainside and remnants were thrown another 100 feet.

By Monday afternoon, the seven NTSB and Federal Aviation Administration investigators had recovered all of the bodies, then retreated to a church at the base of the mountain to pray.

Earlier, a chaplain from the Motor Racing Outreach group met with Hendrick employees for a prayer service at the firm's North Carolina compound. Counselors and chaplains were available for workers.

News of the crash halted Hendrick driver Jimmie Johnson's victory celebration after the Subway 500 in Martinsville as word of the deaths reached the Hendrick team, which also includes drivers Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte and Brian Vickers.

Ronnie Foley, 48, and Timothy Cooper, 43, said they saw the plane fly over Sunday while they were waiting for the race to begin on TV.

"It was like it was idling. It sounded like it was at about half throttle," said Cooper, who was about three miles from the crash site with Foley.

"Not that it sounded funny," Cooper said. "It just wasn't as loud as it should



National Transportation Safety Board investigator Dennis Diaz, right, holds on as driver Jeff Inman reads his four wheeler to head up Bull Mountain to the site of the Hendrick Motors plane crash in Patrick Springs, Va. Ten people died in the crash on Sunday.

have been."

The dead were Ricky Hendrick, 24, Rick Hendrick's son, John Hendrick, Rick Hendrick's brother and president of Hendrick Motorsports; Kimberly and Jennifer Hendrick, John Hendrick's 22-year-old twin daughters; Joe Jackson, an executive with

DuPont; Jeff Turner, general manager of Hendrick Motorsports; Randy Dorton, 50, the team's chief engine builder; Scott Lathram, 38, a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart; and pilots Richard Tracy, 51, of Charlotte, N.C., and Elizabeth Morrison, 31.

On the Net: <http://www.hendrickmotorsports.com>

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Education
Focus
In Sunday
Scene,
this Sunday

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

Richard Childress can empathize with at least some of the despair that fellow NASCAR team owner Rick Hendrick is going through.

Nearly four years ago, Dale Earnhardt was killed while driving for Childress in the Daytona 500.

"I looked at Dale as a brother, and I know what Rick and that whole team are going through today," Childress said Monday.

Just 24 hours earlier, a plane owned by Hendrick Motorsports crashed. All 10 people aboard were killed, including Hendrick's son, brother and twin nieces.

"What Rick's got to go on now is rely on the people around him," Childress said. "He's going to find he has got a lot of support from his team, his family and the people in the garage."

Hendrick has spent 20 years as a NASCAR team owner and is one of the big players in the sport. Yet for all his success, he has never lost the wide smile and easy manner that make him welcome wherever he goes.

"Rick is one of those guys who is everybody's friend," said Terry Labonte, who has driven for Hendrick since 1994. "He can't walk

20 feet in the garage without someone wanting to shake his hand or have a conversation."

Now, Hendrick is grieving like never before.

The plane crashed in fog en route to a NASCAR race in Martinsville, Va. The dead included Hendrick's son, Ricky; brother John; and John's twin daughters, Jennifer and Kimberly.

Also killed were Joe Jackson, an executive with DuPont; Jeff Turner, general manager of Hendrick Motorsports; Randy Dorton, the team's chief engine builder; Scott Lathram, a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart; and pilots Richard Tracy and Elizabeth Morrison.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. said this latest tragedy hit the racing community "like a hammer to the chest."

The 35-year-old Hendrick, owner of one of the nation's biggest networks of auto dealerships, already had a championship drag boat team when he established his NASCAR operation in 1984 with Geoffrey Bodine as his first driver. The fledgling team won three races that season and has added 125 more wins, including Jimmie Johnson's victory Sunday in Martinsville.

That first team had fewer than 20 full-time employees and a small shop. The Hendrick Motor-

sports empire of 2004 has 460 workers at its North Carolina compound, which includes several race shops, buildings for the engine department, a fabrication department, a paint shop and a museum and team store.

"As you look back at NASCAR 100 years from now, people are certainly going to think of Rick as one of the great car owners," Childress said. "I've always said he has class and integrity and he's always been one of my favorite people."

Hendrick's team released a statement Monday on behalf of the family, thanking everyone for the "outpouring of support."

Hendrick is credited with starting the trend of multicar teams, and he employs Johnson, four-time NASCAR champion Jeff Gordon, two-time champion Labonte and Brian Vickers as his Nextel Cup drivers. The team won an unprecedented four consecutive Cup championships from 1995-98.

Hendrick has had good times off the track. He was a technical adviser for the Tom Cruise movie "Days of Thunder" and was one of the four original owners of the Charlotte Hornets.

There have been less happy times, however. Tim Richmond, who drove for Hendrick in the '80s, had his career cut short by

AIDS, which eventually killed him.

In 1996, Hendrick was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. He underwent chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, turning over the operation of his team to his brother until 1999, when the disease went into remission.

During that period, Hendrick pleaded guilty to mail fraud involving the payment of \$20,000 to a Honda executive. He was fined \$250,000 but avoided jail time because of his leukemia. He was later pardoned by President Clinton.

"I don't know what I would have done without John during that time," Hendrick said after resuming leadership of the team. "He gave me so much support and stepped in, and everything just kept on going like clockwork."

His brother has remained an integral part of the team as president. Hendrick, however, made it clear his plans for the organization revolved around his son, who decided after an injury during a Busch Series race at Las Vegas to give up driving and concentrate on being a team owner.

"It affects all of us in motorsports when good people with great talents are taken away from you," said driver John Andretti. "We are all family in this garage."

Colts downplay confrontation between Manning, Wayne

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning and Reggie Wayne kept quiet Monday. Their Indianapolis Colts teammates didn't think they needed to say a word.

One day after Manning and Wayne engaged in a shouting match near the end of a 27-24 loss to Jacksonville, the primary participants did not make themselves available to reporters, as usual. Other players tried to explain what led to Sunday's sideline confrontation.

NFL briefs It's football. Guys get hot and tempers flare," center Jeff Saturday said.

"You didn't see us pulling guys back, so it's not that big of a deal." It was an uncharacteristic distraction for a team that won four straight games before Sunday's loss.

Wayne and Manning jawed briefly at each other, faces mask to facemask, and Wayne even shoved last year's NFL co-MVP moments before the offense went back onto the field with 33 seconds left in the game.

Colts players tried to downplay the incident.

Saturday said he thought it was blown out of proportion and acknowledged he's engaged in occasional shouting matches either in the huddle or on the sideline with other offensive linemen, calling it part of the game.

Arrington re-injures knee

ASHBURN, Va. — LaVar Arrington sustained his second straight injury to his right knee in practice Monday, a setback for the three-time Pro Bowl linebacker who is hoping to play this week after missing four games.

Arrington was hurt on a wet practice field as the Washington Redskins returned from a four-day, bye-weekend vacation. "I think he just kind of slipped on the grass out there," coach Joe Gibbs said.

Arrington had surgery on the knee Sept. 23. He was optimistic that he could use the extra week of rest during the bye to return for Sunday's game against the Green Bay Packers.

Arrington took the field in full pads Monday, but his injury prompted yet another trip to see a doctor before practice ended.

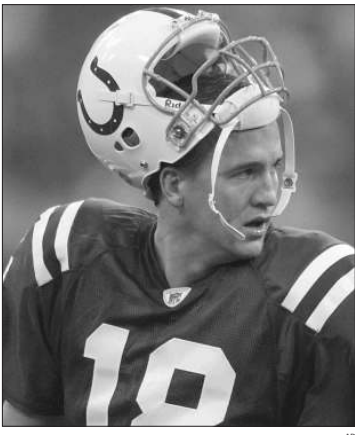
"I don't think it's much of a setback, but we'll see," Gibbs said.

Bears pickup Couch

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — The Chicago Bears passed up the chance to sign Tim Couch and will stick with the three quarterbacks on their roster with rookie Craig Krenzel possibly starting Sunday night's home game against San Francisco.

Couch, the top overall pick in the 1999 draft, had a tryout on Friday and Saturday with the Bears, who lost starting quarterback Rex Grossman to a season-ending knee injury in the third week.

Both Krenzel and Jonathan Quinn played a half in Sunday's 19-17 loss to Tampa Bay. Krenzel, in his first NFL appearance, completed nine of 19 passes for 69



Colts quarterback Peyton Manning got into a heated exchange with receiver Reggie Wayne during Sunday's loss to Jacksonville.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)

Buccaners: RB Mike Alstott (knee) out at least four weeks.

Ravens: OT Jonathan Ogden (hamstring) and TE Todd Heap (knee) are both questionable.

Cowboys: WR Terry Glenn (foot) out at least two weeks.

Titans: RB Chris Brown (toe) is questionable.

Panthers: RB DeShaun Foster (collarbone) will have surgery and miss the rest of the season.

yards and led the Bears to their only score. But he also threw an interception.

Quinn, who had a 77-yard screen pass TD called back on the first play, was 5-for-9 for 47 yards after making his third straight start.

Smith would not say who would start practice Wednesday as the No. 1 quarterback. But he did say the Bears were no longer interested in Couch.

"As much as anything, we like the three quarterbacks, we're working with right now," Smith said.

Fisher says McNair day-to-day **NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Steve McNair is hurting, frustrated and just wants to get healthy.

For now, the Tennessee Titans will only say he's day-to-day. McNair bruised his sternum for the third time in five weeks during Sunday's 20-3 loss at Minnesota. The latest hit didn't send him to a hospital like the first one on Sept. 26, but he spent three quarters on the sideline in enough pain he could only take shallow breaths.

Couch Jeff Fisher said Monday that a CT scan showed a hematoma on McNair's sternum and that

the quarterback still was sore.

Whether McNair rests Sunday when the Titans (2-5) host the Cincinnati Bengals is uncertain. Fisher listed McNair as questionable the week the quarterback spent two nights in a hospital, then deactivated him before a loss at San Diego.

"The Titans have their bye Nov. 7, which would offer McNair a chance to rest."

"We've discussed it," Fisher said. "We'll consider it, but we'll see how he is. When he was a little sore last week, we held him out of practice. He came back ... and was fine. He's going to have to work through this. We'll just list him as day-to-day."

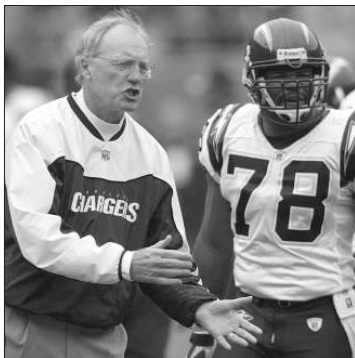
Moss expected to play more against Giants

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Randy Moss is expected to play a meaningful role for the Minnesota Vikings this weekend against the Giants, even without a fully healed right hamstring.

The Vikings started Moss on Sunday to keep his consecutive games streak alive at 102, but the All-Pro wide receiver was limited to two snaps and did not catch a pass in Minnesota's 20-3 victory over Tennessee.

"Hopefully he'll progress more this week, and we'll be able to use him in an active role," coach Mike Tice said Monday. "I don't anticipate he'll be at speed enough to play his normal role, which is every play of the game and every situation."

Tice said he didn't know if his star would practice this week, but he indicated Moss could be used inside the 20-yard line or on third downs on Sunday against New York.



Chargers head coach Marty Schottenheimer, left, wants San Diego to keep its 4-3 record and playoff outlook in perspective.

San Diego charged by talk of playoffs

By BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Surprise, surprise. Look who's above .500 and talking about making a playoff push.

None other than the San Diego Chargers.

A year ago, the Chargers were the NFL's worst team and missed the playoffs for the eighth straight season. Now they've won as many games as they did last year, improving to 4-3 with a 17-6 road win over last year's surprise team, the Carolina Panthers.

After splitting games in consecutive trips to the East Coast, the Chargers feel like they actually have a chance.

"We want to make a playoff push," said running back LaDainian Tomlinson, who continues to play despite a strained groin muscle that had him limping off the field Sunday.

"I think we are in a very good position," said quarterback Drew Brees, who was all but shoved aside by management in the off-season, only to bounce back remarkably with a 95.5 passer rating, sixth best in the NFL.

"We like where we are right now," Brees said. "We are starting to find ourselves as a team. We are kind of blinding that path in where we want to go."

They're also trying to keep it in perspective. After all, they started 6-1 in 2002, Marty Schottenheimer's first season as coach, only to lose seven of their last nine. In 2001, Tomlinson's first season, the Chargers were 5-2 before losing their last nine.

Still, the Chargers clearly are opening some eyes around the league.

"I've gotten phone calls from friends, and people are kind of surprised at how much success we've had thus far," said linebacker Steve Foley, who signed as a free agent in the offseason. "I'm trying not to get overly excited

about it. We still have tons of ball left. But I'm feeling good as far as where we're at right now. The atmosphere in the locker room is positive, and that's what it's going to have to continue to be for us to be successful."

"No one's riding a high horse or anything, but everyone realizes what we have here and our potential. I guess, how far we can go and how many victories we can get," Foley said. "So hopefully it'll get us in the playoffs."

That would be fine with newly acquired wide receiver Keenan McDardell, who helped the Tampa Bay Buccaneers rout the Oakland Raiders in the Super Bowl here two seasons ago.

"I think we can make the playoffs," said McDardell, who caught five passes for 65 yards in his Chargers debut after missing the first six games with the Bucs in a holdout. "I'm not going to put us out on a limb like that, but if we keep getting better, why not? We're in the hunt just like everybody else. Why not?"

Only two of the Chargers' last nine opponents have winning records. Next up are consecutive home games against Oakland (2-5) and New Orleans (3-4).

Schottenheimer, naturally, doesn't read too much into the Chargers' record.

"We're 4-3. And that's only one game above .500, and .500 won't get it in this league," he said. "But he does like the direction the Chargers are going, that they're picking up Wade Phillips' 3-4 defense and how McDardell brings a needed veteran presence to the receiving corps."

And he practically raved Monday about rookie kicker Nate Kaeding, who's made 10 of 11 field goal attempts and all 21 PATs, and punter Mike Scifres, a second-year pro who repeatedly has pinned opponents deep in their own end.

"The biggest difference is the kicking game," Schottenheimer said. "It's dramatic."



Photo courtesy of Spencer P. Lane

Capt. Jill Metzger, an executive officer at U.S. Air Forces in Europe's operations section, won the Air Force Marathon in September and will run in this weekend's Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Va.

Air Force Marathon champion Metzger pulling double duty

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Jill Metzger's clearly not one to rest on her laurels.

Just 38 days after winning a second straight Air Force Marathon last month in Dayton, Ohio, Metzger left Germany on Tuesday to run this Saturday's 29th annual U.S. Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Va.

Even by the up-tempo standards of today's military, the six-week break between the two races is the marathon equivalent of back-to-back missions.

"It wasn't planned that way in advance," Metzger, 31, said of her marathon-a-month schedule. "In August, a message came down from Air Force headquarters requesting people to represent the Air Force in the Marine Corps Marathon. Since I had won the Air Force Marathon the year before, I was kind of name-embedded in the request."

Metzger, who has run in 16 marathons, knew that running in both races would be tough. Her training has been limited by her 12-hour days as executive officer for the operations section of U.S. Air Forces in Europe war-fighting sub-component.

"I was torn at first," said Metzger, who added that she usually plans her training for an event a year in advance. "I knew I wasn't going to be as prepared as I should be."

In the end, however, her Air Force pride and her competitive juices tipped the balance.

"I'm going to do more than just run," she said. "I'm going to shoulder the responsibility of representing the Air Force and build relationships with runners from the other services."

And compete in a big-time event.

"The Air Force Marathon is

"I'm going to shoulder the responsibility of representing the Air Force and build relationships with runners from the other services."

Jill Metzger
marathon runner

fairly new." Metzger said of the event she's dominated the past two years. "The Marine Corps event is much larger. It's a seasoned, mature event attractive to professional runners."

Although Metzger, who said she's never had any formal marathon coaching, is quick to stress that she's an amateur and not a professional, she's hoping the strong field will help her reach a goal she's set for Saturday.

"I'd like to go under three hours," said Metzger, who won at Dayton in 3:06.06.

Can she better that time just six weeks later?

"That's a pretty quick turnaround," said Leigh PLOWMAN of Garmisch, who placed 27th in his age category at last year's Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii. "But she won't have to worry about peaking at the right time. She'll have to depend on her high level of fitness."

Metzger is philosophical about the limited training regimen.

"If you're not ready a month before the race, you're not ready," she said. "I'm relying on my training over the past several months to see me through."

It's not as though she's never stacked races before.

"The shortest amount of time for me between marathons was one week," she said, recalling an astounding September in 2002.

In Sept. 2002, Metzger ran the Air Force Marathon, then turned around the following weekend to run the Berlin Marathon with her friend, Capt. Angela Johnson, she said.

"We ran the marathon in memory of her late husband, Capt. Luke Johnson, who had planned to run in Berlin but was killed in an F-16 crash at Spangdahlem in March 2002," Metzger said. "She trained and ran in his place."

Metzger, who will start Saturday's race with less emotional turmoil than in Berlin, said she hopes her Air Force victory will serve as a slingshot for Saturday.

"When you're preparing for a marathon, there's more involved than just training," she said. "You have to reach a competitive level, usually by scheduling a race sometime before the event. The Air Force Marathon will help me achieve my competitive edge."

To Metzger, a former college soccer player at East Carolina University who didn't begin running seriously until commissioned in the Air Force eight years ago, competition is the stuff of life.

"Once you get a taste of victory," said Metzger, who has won four marathons in her career. "It's like blood to a vampire. It feels so good it's almost like a drug. Once you get it, you want it again."

Metzger downplayed her chances, however, of testing victory for a fifth time in her career this Saturday.

"I'm not shooting for first place," she said. "I'll try to be as competitive as possible."

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It's all too easy for Sox diehards

Up 2-0, cursed fans can't get cocky

BOSTON — Not too giddy, now, all you members of Red Sox Nation.

Deep breath. Cowboy down. You immigrants, newly ennobled in this deeply scarred territory, arriving by jam-packed bandwagon, you don't know any better, of course. It just looked like a cool place to hang out, with all that energy and all that hair.

But all you native sons and daughters, the diehards who have spent their whole life on this halcyon turf, you folks with all those generational wounds to heal — like the guy carrying the sign outside Fenway Park Sunday that read, "Will Donate Semi-Healthy Liver For Tickets" — you, of all people, should know better.

Granted, that two-games-to-none lead over St. Louis, after Sunday's 6-2 victory at Fenway, looks awfully enticing, especially with Pedro Martinez ready to go on Tuesday against — hold your smirks — Jeff Suppan.

We all know that Pedro chews up the Jeff Suppans of the world and spits them out. He's their daddy. And when he runs out of gas at Busch Stadium, as he invariably does these days, they've got the indefatigable Keith Foulke just waiting to make it right.

The Red Sox seem touched by some higher power right now, against once it's a good thing. They've got Curt Schilling pitching on the "inspirational miracle a week" installment plan. He was brilliant again Sunday, his ankle tendon jerry-rigged into shape long enough to work six nearly flawless innings, after he woke up Sunday morning convinced he couldn't pitch.

The Red Sox have Schilling to draw upon, "a man among kids," Johnny Damon said. The Sox have Mark Bellhorn, about to be inducted into the Unknown Hero Hall of Fame. They have David Ortiz being pitched around like he's the American League Barry Bonds and for good reason. They've got Foulke breaking all of Tony La Russa's rules about using a closer for more than one inning.

It's so close now, you can almost taste the celebratory Sam Adams.

Shoot, if the Red Sox can whip the Cardinals twice while making four errors a game, just imagine what they can do if they remember to pack their gloves for the trip to St. Louis.

Wrong attitude. These are the Red Sox. This could just as easily be a setup for disaster as for triumph. Don't you know a trap when you see one? Have you forgotten your history so quickly, oh, deluded ones?

Teams can blow 2-0 leads. Heck, in 1986, the Red Sox won the last two games of the World Series against the Mets — in New York, no less — and in memory serves, that didn't end well.

Larry Stone



more boots than Tony Lama. Four E's a game is not exactly the patented formula for success.

Sunday, it was Big M. Metzger playing the role of Manny Ramirez, committing one error, not two, but three errors, and living to tell the tale. Sure the field was slick, but the Red Sox are playing like the ball's been bathed in baby oil.

Said Damon, "We made some mistakes, but you know what? Big deal."

Danger, Nation, danger. Now's not the time for the Red Sox to go all lockstock on you, pit, they said all the right things in the victorious clubhouse about learning their lesson in the Yankees series, that it ain't over till it's over. But saying it and embracing it are two different things.

"Two-oh is a great position to be in, but the next game is the most important of the season," Damon said. It's a good thing, with that attitude. We'd much rather be 3-0 than 2-1."

That's the spirit, particularly in light of the fact that St. Louis had the best home record in the majors this year and hasn't dropped a postseason game at Busch in six outings.

The Cardinals, however, were showing definite signs of frustration as they headed out of Boston. Pitching coach Dave Duncan, asked about the 14 walks and three hit batters his pitchers have yielded in 16 innings, bristled a bit.

"We'll see how patient they are while we get to St. Louis," he said. "I'll be impressed if they're that patient in St. Louis."

Ray King, the Cardinals' reliever, ranted about the slow pace of American League baseball, questioning the Red Sox for taking too long to change pitchers and taking too long to get into the batter's box.

"American League games are too long," said King. "Baseball's a game where you get in and out. You bat, you throw, you catch. If you want to be on TV, become an actor. You're at the ballpark, you're ready to go. It's a game of baseball, not a fashion show."

Yeah, the yelling Cardinals are fueled and desperate, but they're nothing less than a major upgrade and/or a Red Sox collapse to save them.

In other words, got 'em right where they want 'em.
Larry Stone is a sports columnist for The Seattle Times.

SPORTS



At 4-3, surprising Chargers
opening eyes around league,
Page 32

Cardinals set to nest

Return to Busch changes St. Louis' outlook

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Players were back in shirt sleeves, and many of the 96 arches atop Busch Stadium were lit by the late-afternoon sun as the Red Sox took batting practice.

It sure wasn't Boston.

It was 78 degrees when the Red Sox worked out Monday in St. Louis' 130-foot high, cookie-cutter ballpark. That was 28 degrees higher than the temperature back in Boston, where the Red Sox won Games 1 and 2 of the World Series last weekend.

Boston's quirky Fenway Park, opened in 1912, has its idiosyncrasies: the Green Monster in left, the triangle in center, the Pesky Pole in right, the Cask 'n' Flagon behind The Wall.

Busch Stadium is boring, 330 feet down each foul line, 372 to left and right, 402 feet to center, the 8-foot padded green fence topped by a yellow stripe all the way around. But behind the left-field seats is Eero Saarinen's 630-foot high, stainless steel Gateway Arch, opened in 1967, a year after the ballpark.

And the visiting manager's office has two pictures of Babe Ruth, whose sale by the Red Sox to the Yankees in 1920 may or may not have started The Curse.

Grass replaced artificial turf in 1996, and a hand-operated scoreboard with adjacent flags commemorating the team's World Series titles and retired numbers was erected on much of the outfield upper deck the following year.

This ballpark once was a state-of-the-art tribute to modernism.

Now it leaks and is so outmoded that the Cardinals plan to knock it down in 2006 and move to a new \$387 million, 46,000-seat Busch Stadium that is rising behind the outfield and first-base seats.

"They really did a great job turning this from one of those bowls, cookie-cutter stadiums, into a great stadium," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "I really love this stadium."

So do the Cardinals.

St. Louis was 53-28 at Busch during the regular season, the best home record in the National League, and is 6-0 there during the postseason.

SEE BUSCH ON PAGE 35



The Gateway Arch rises out of left field at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, the site of Games 3-5 of the World Series.

Bengals earn a prime rate

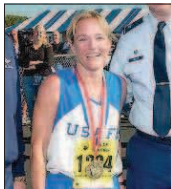


Bengals Brian Simmons and Caleb Miller (58) converge on Broncos running back Reuben Droughns during the third quarter. Cincinnati won 23-10 in the first Monday night game it has hosted in 15 years, using big plays by receiver Chad Johnson to set the tone. See story on Page 33.



Investigators
examine wreckage
as racing mourns
with Hendrick

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Ramstein runner
makes quick turn
for Marine race

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Spurrier might be at top of Florida's wish list

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